

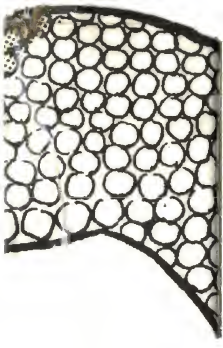
All life is sacred...



Of beastly innocence, and human folly...

BUDDHA





**OSAMU
TEZUKA**

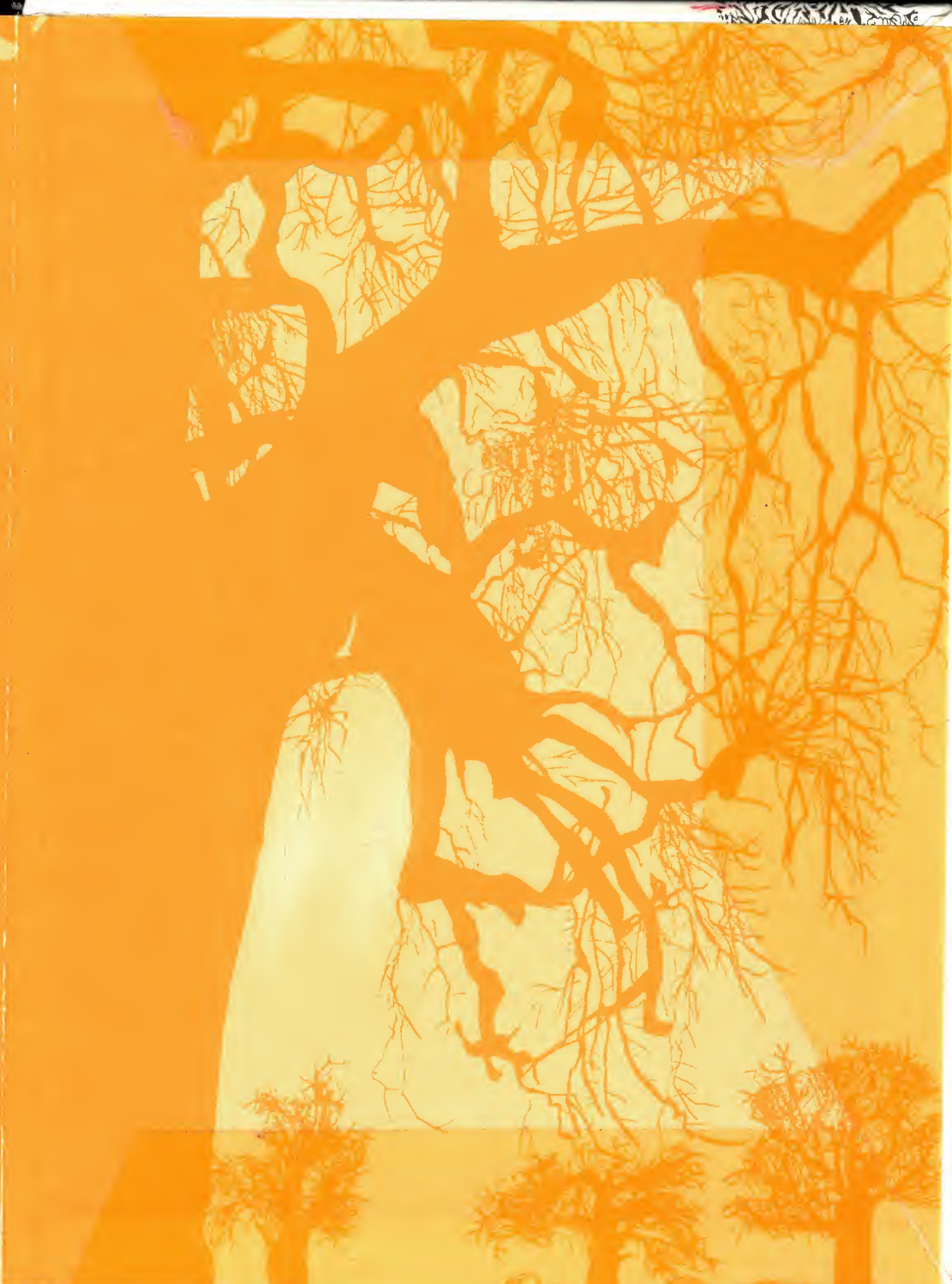




BUDDHA
OSAMU TEZUKA

5: *Deer Park*

V
E
R
T
I
C
A
L





THE JOURNEY

THE JOURNEY

LEGEND:

- LUMBINI
- ANCIENT PLACE NAMES
- MAJOR ROUTES
- PLACES VISITED BY THE BUDDHA

LUMBINI ANCIENT PLACE NAMES ————— MAJOR ROUTES ● PLACES VISITED BY THE BUDDHA



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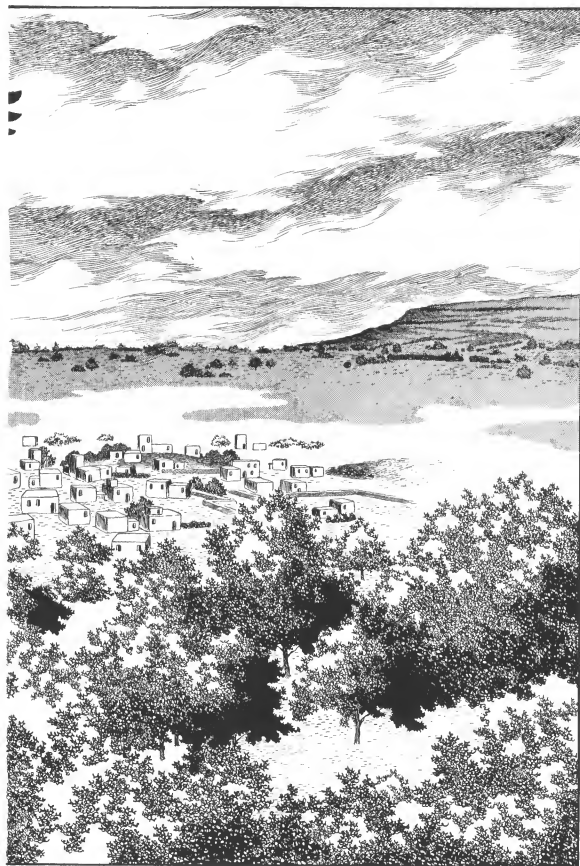
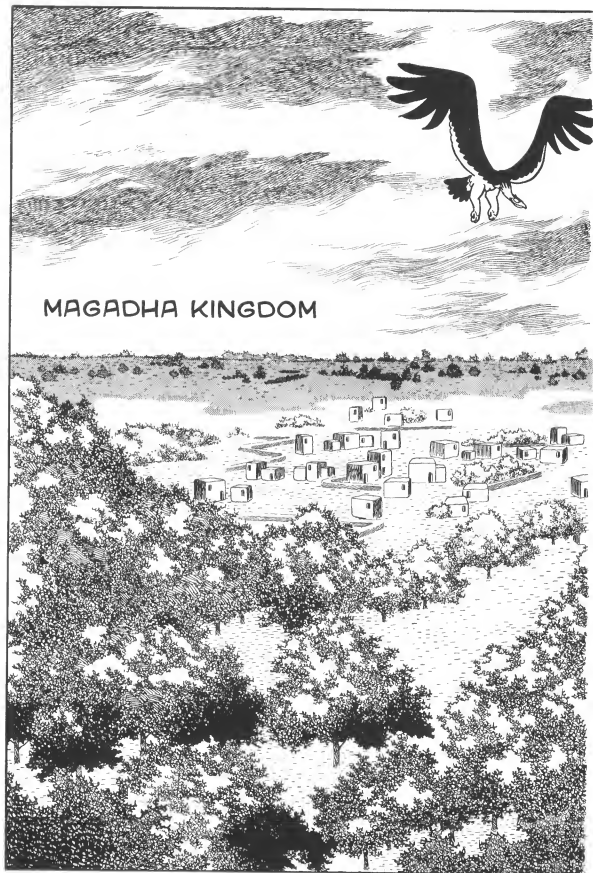
7/ FOOL'S WAY

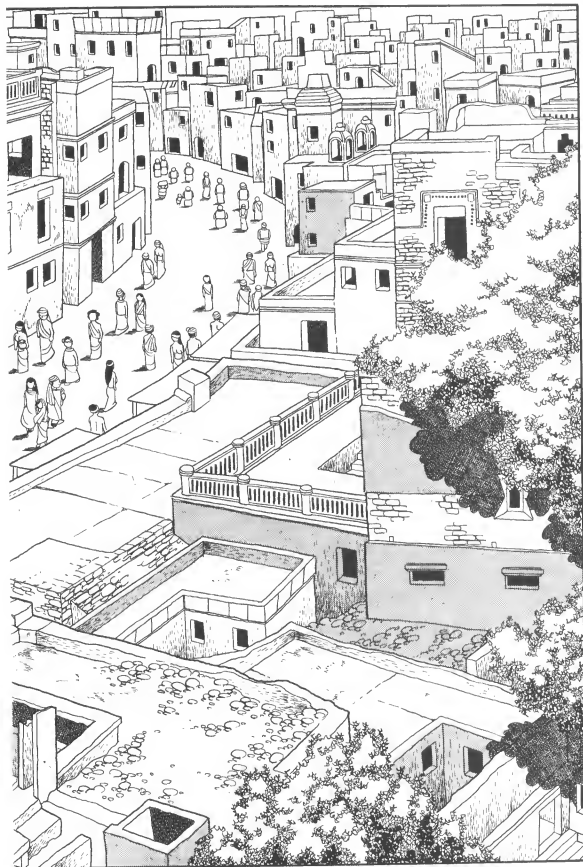
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PART FOUR

CHAPTER ONE

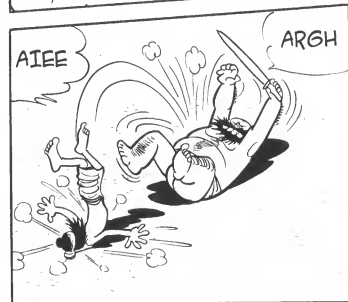
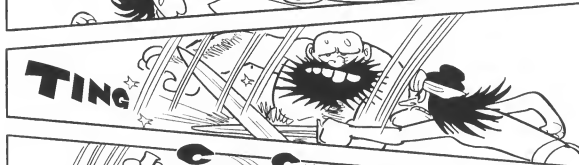
**THE SWORDSMAN
AND
THE DRIFTER**



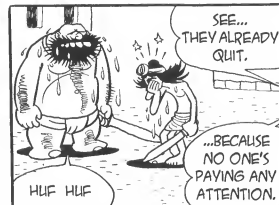
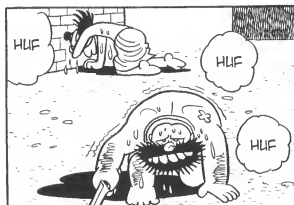
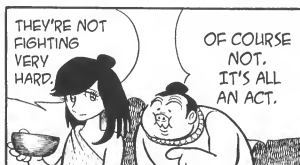
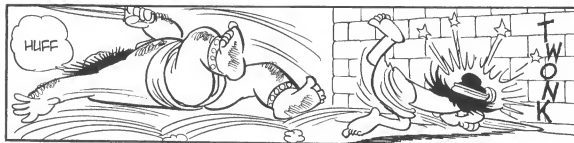


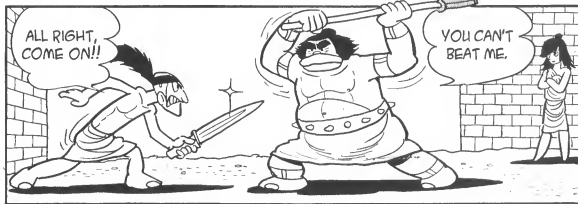
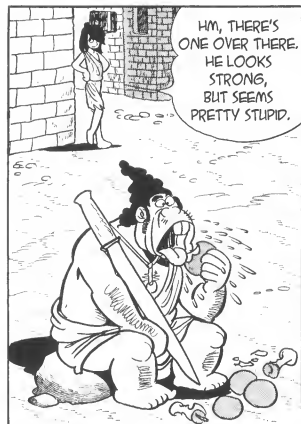
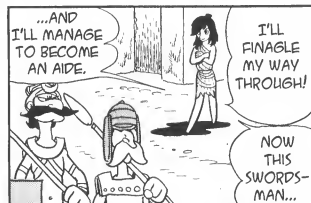
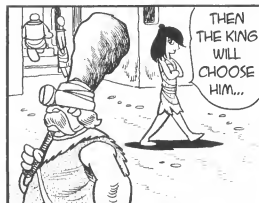


12



13

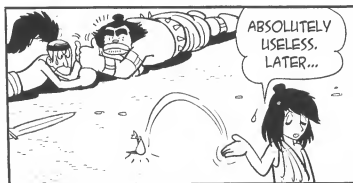




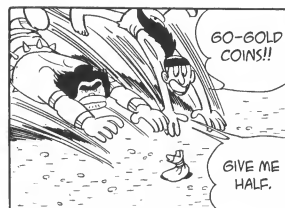


ARGH.
WHAT
IS
THIS...

...I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
SUCH
PATHETIC
FIGHTING.

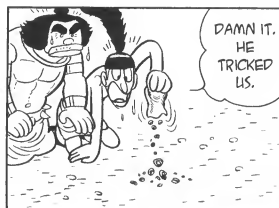


ABSOLUTELY
USELESS.
LATER...



60-GOLD
COINS!!

GIVE ME
HALF.



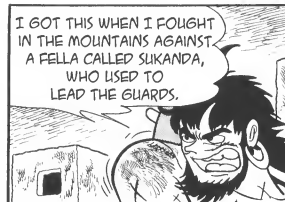
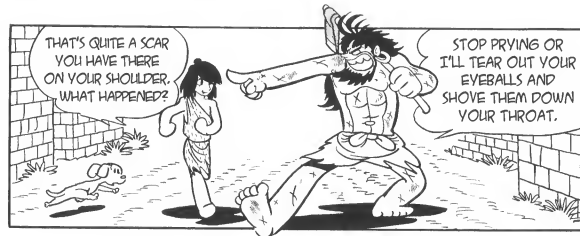
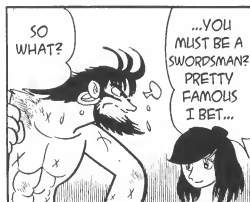
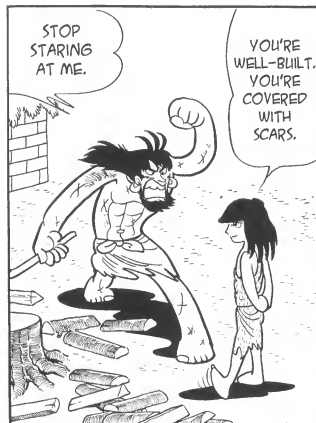
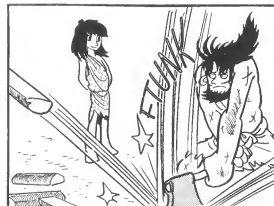
DAMN IT.
HE
TRICKED
US.



THAT LITTLE RASCAL.
WHERE'D HE GO?

SHUCKS!







A SWORDS-
MAN?

HAH.



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK I AM?
I'M A PARIAH.

A
PA
RI
AH!



WE'RE NOT
EVEN CONSIDERED
HUMAN. WE'RE
BELOW SLAVES.

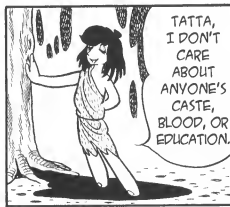
A SWORDS-
MAN? HAH!



PARIAH...



SO
THAT'S
ALL?



TATTA,
I DON'T CARE
ABOUT
ANYONE'S
CASTE,
BLOOD, OR
EDUCATION.



ONLY
THE STRONG
CAN WIN IN
THE WORLD.
BELIEVE ME,
I KNOW.

LET'S PAIR UP.
I'LL BE
YOUR MANAGER.
I'LL MAKE YOU
THE MIGHTIEST
WARRIOR!

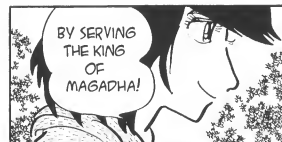


SHUT
UP.

MY
BUDDIES
WERE
KILLED
BY
SOLDIERS.
I HATE 'EM
ALL.



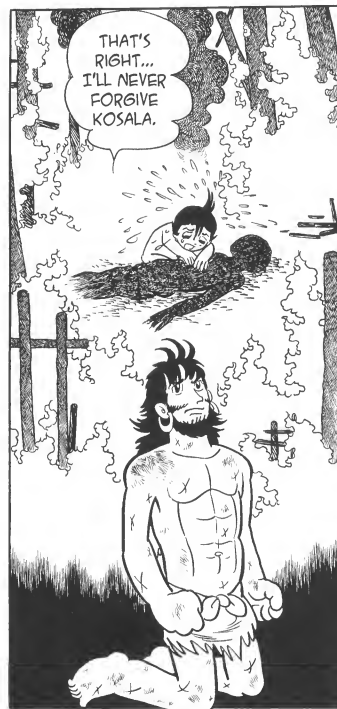
THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
AVENGE
THEM BY
BECOMING
ONE OF
THEM?



BY SERVING
THE KING
OF
MAGADHA!



SERVE
THE KING
?



THAT'S
RIGHT...
I'LL NEVER
FORGIVE
KOSALA.



MAGADHA AND
KOSALA ARE ENEMIES.
IF I FIGHT FOR MAGADHA
THEN I MIGHT HAVE
A CHANCE TO ATTACK
AND INVADE KOSALA.



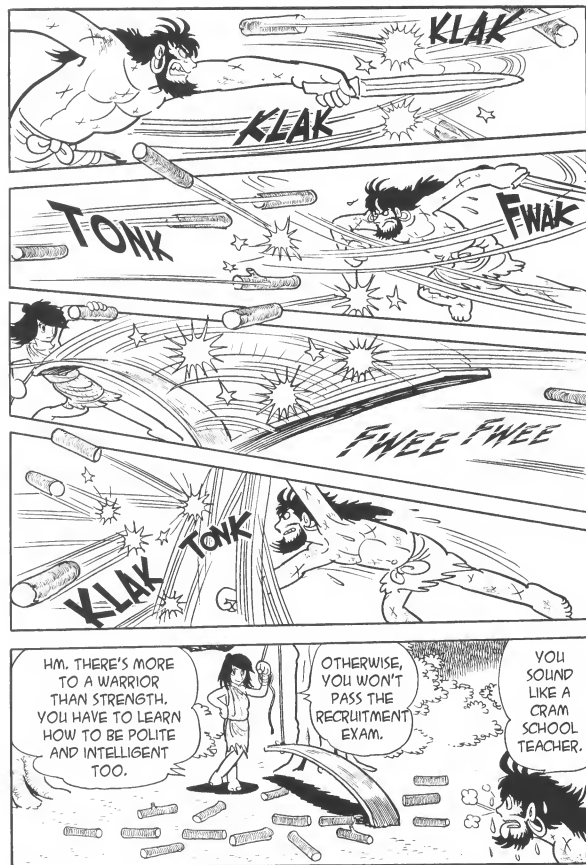
SO?
WHAT ARE
YOU
THINKING?

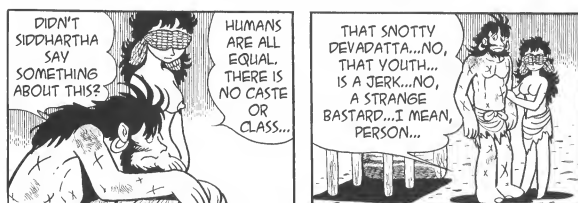
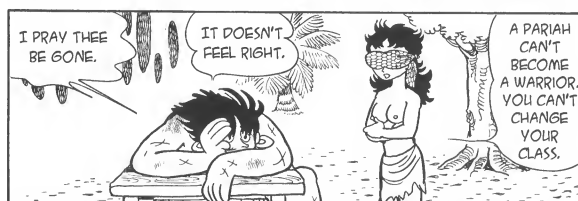
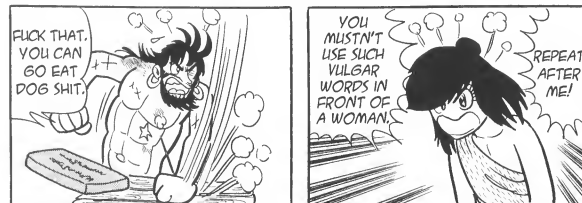
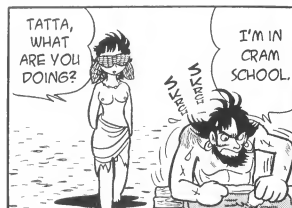
YOU
CAN'T
MAKE UP
YOUR
MIND?

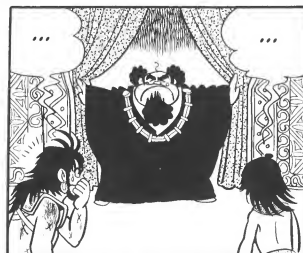


ALL RIGHT.
I'LL TEAM
UP WITH
YOU.

BUT
CAN YOU
REALLY
MAKE ME
A
SWORDS-
MAN?









HM

OUR LEADER HAS
A VERY SHARP EYE.
HE DISTINGUISHES
AND HIRES ONLY
TALENTED FIGHTERS.

YOU SAY
YOU'RE HIS
MANAGER.

WHERE
ARE
YOU
FROM?

KAPILAVASTU



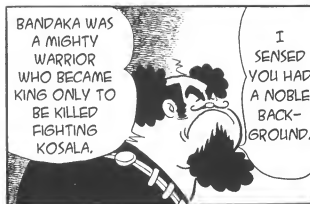
KAPILAVASTU,
HOME OF
THE SHAKYA.

YES,
I AM THE
SURVIVING
SON OF
BANDAKA.



BANDAKA?

SO
YOU'RE
BANDAKA'S
SON?



BANDAKA WAS
A MIGHTY
WARRIOR
WHO BECAME
KING ONLY TO
BE KILLED
FIGHTING
KOSALA.

I
SENSED
YOU HAD
A NOBLE
BACK-
GROUND.



HM HM,
I LIKE THIS.
THIS MUST BE
AN AUSPICIOUS
ENCOUNTER.

VERY WELL
THEN.
I'LL HIRE
THAT
SWORDSMAN.

30

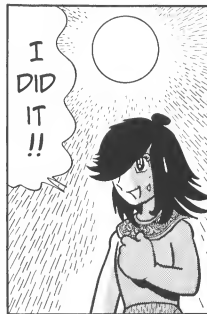


I AM THE PRIME MINISTER.
COME TO ME
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING!

I AM
MUCH
OBLIGED.



GOOD!



I
DID
IT !!



THIS IS
A ONCE IN
A LIFETIME
OPPORTUNITY
!!



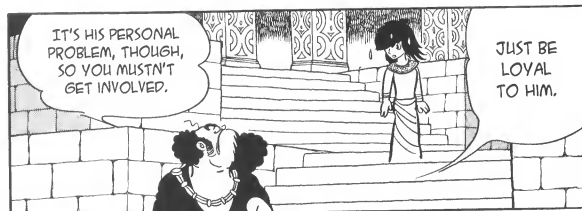
I WON'T
PASS IT UP. I'LL
RULE THE WORLD.
JUST YOU
WAIT AND
SEE...



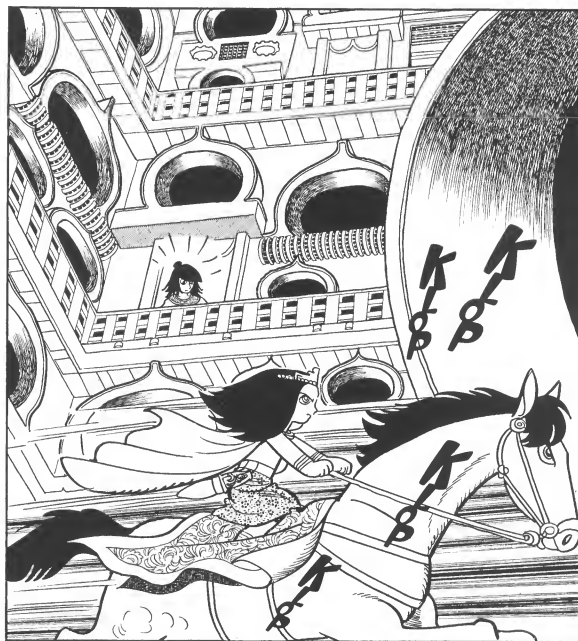
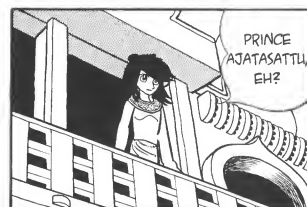
31



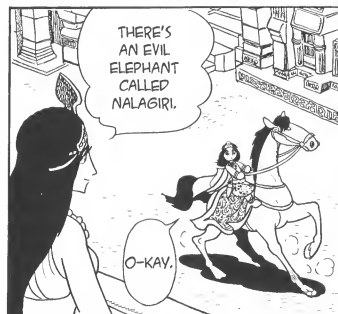
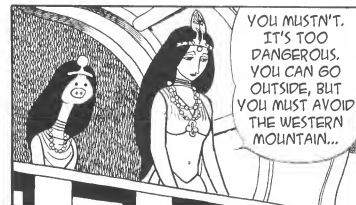
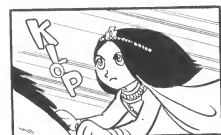
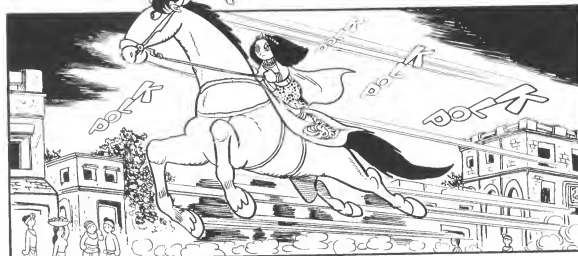


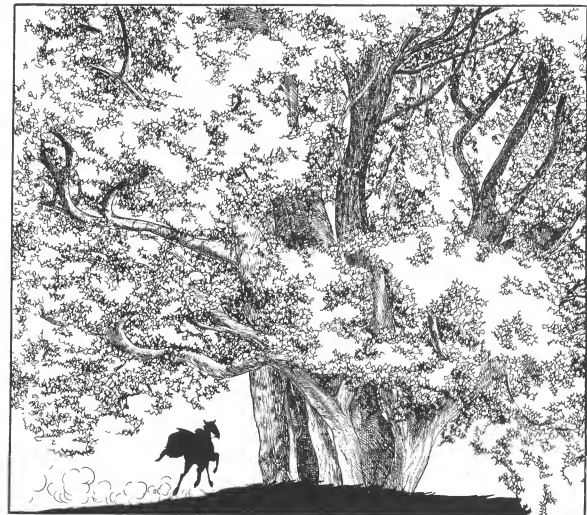
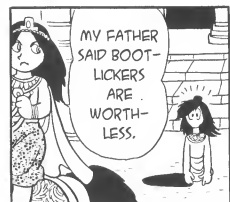
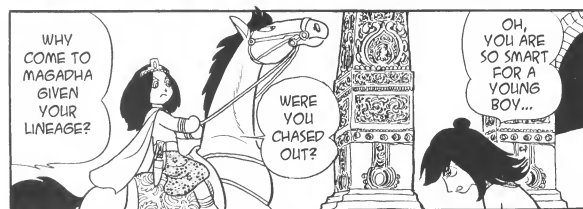


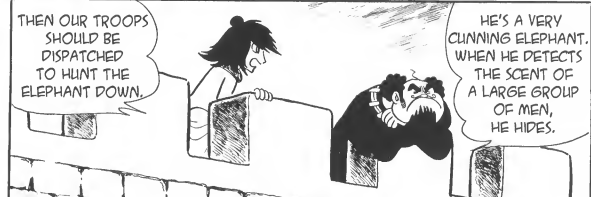
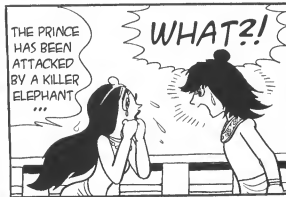
36

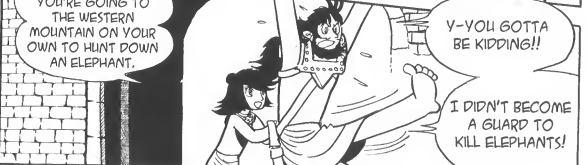
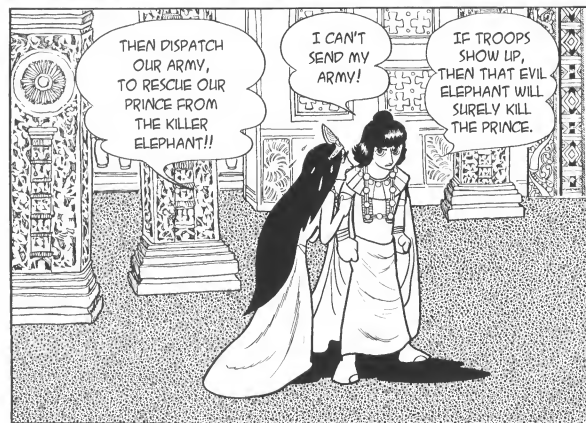
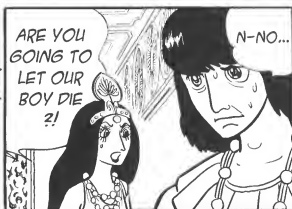


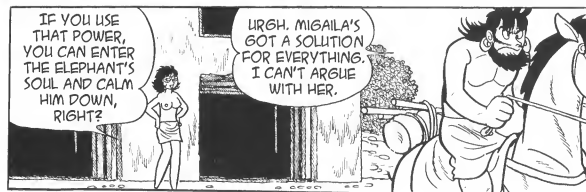
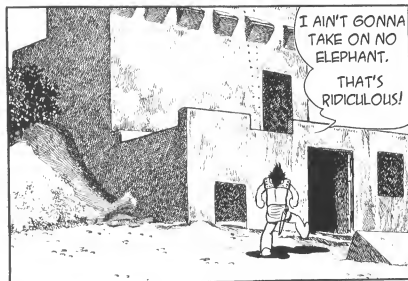
37

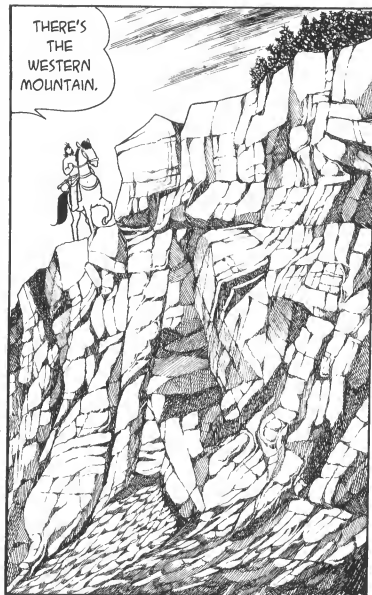


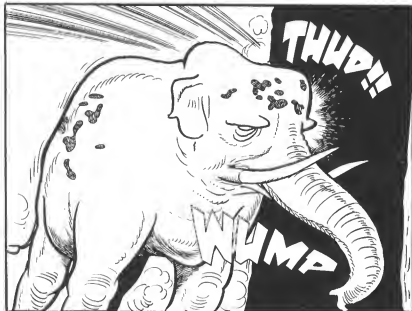


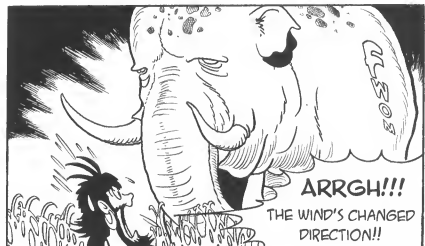
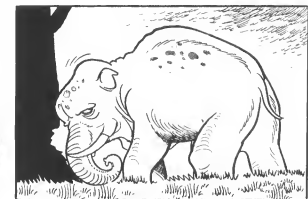
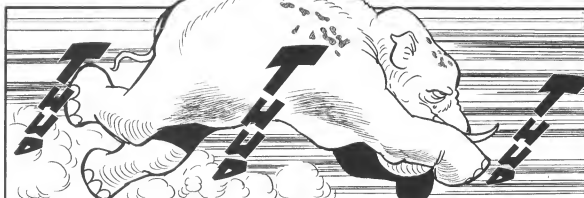


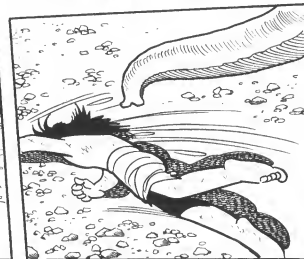
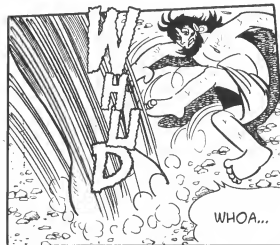
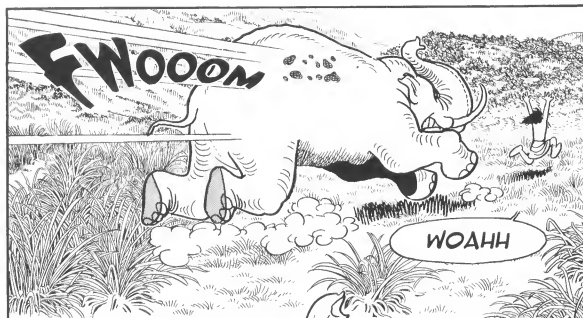


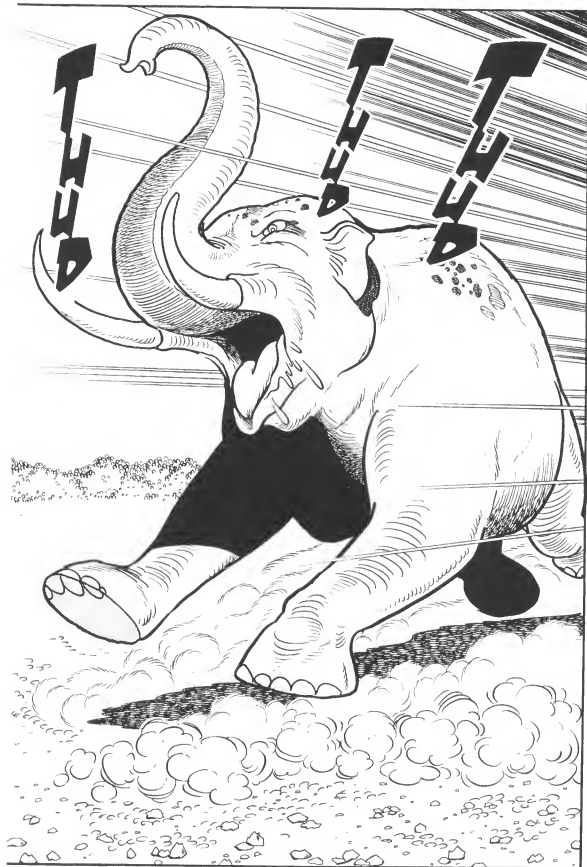


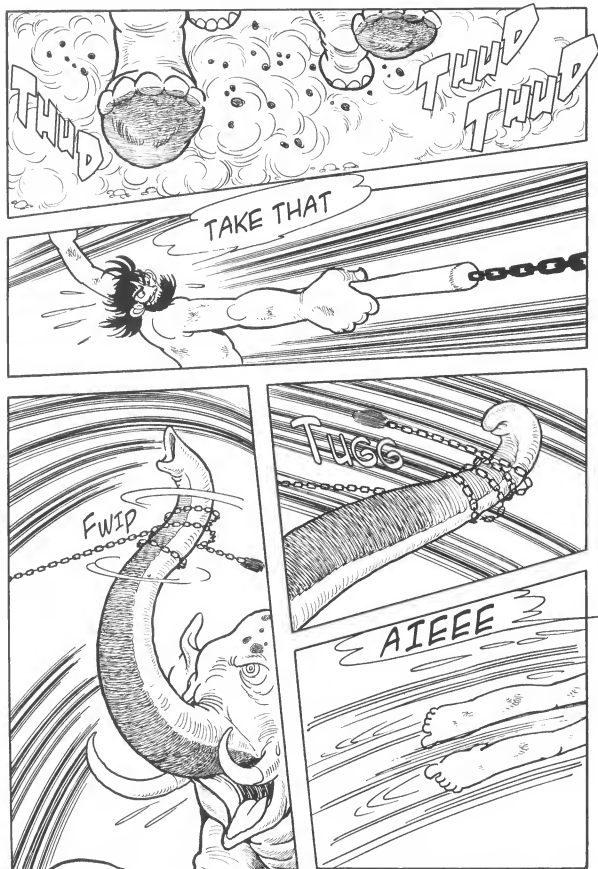


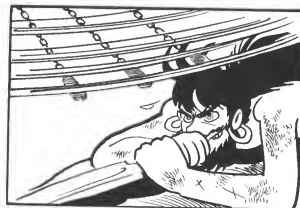
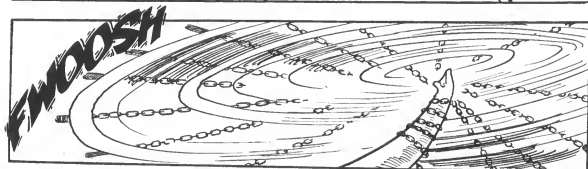
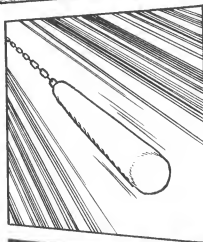
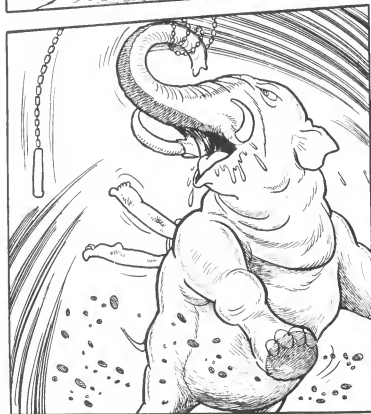
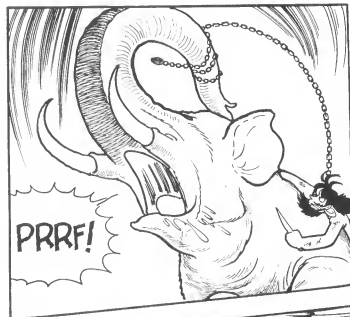


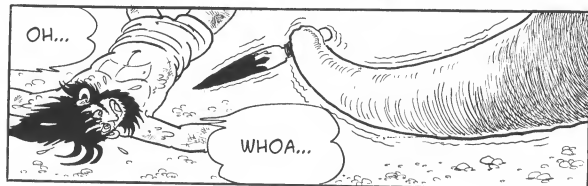
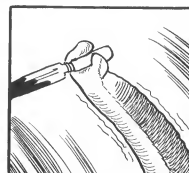
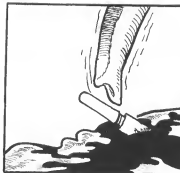
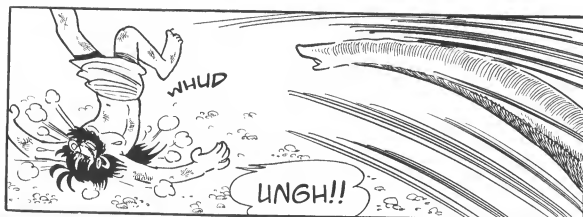
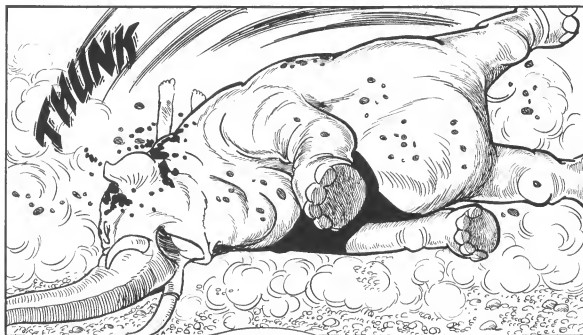


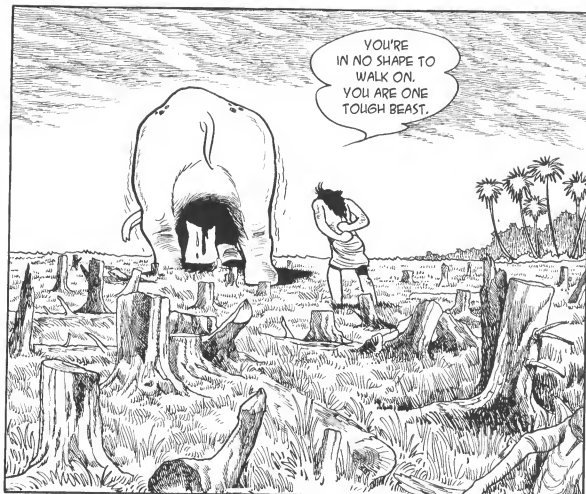
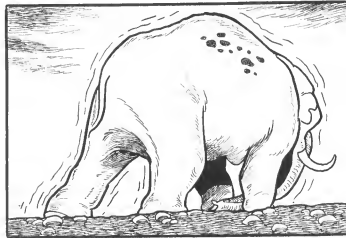
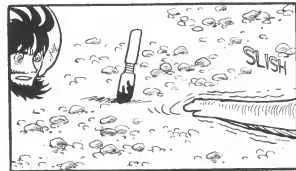
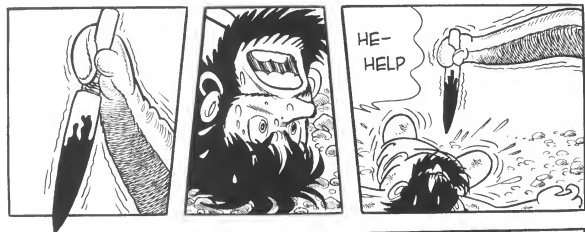


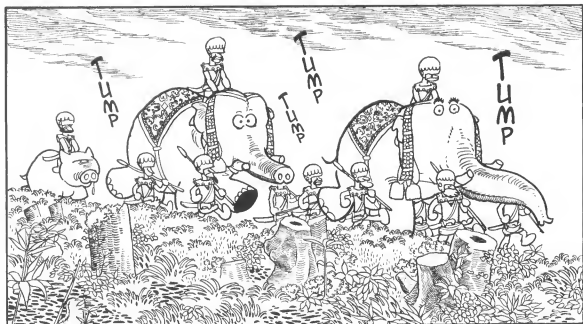












IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIFIED.



SPLendid. YOUR MOTHER WAS SO WORRIED. WHAT ABOUT THE KILLER ELEPHANT?

SOMEONE CHASED HIM AWAY!



WHO FOUGHT THAT ELEPHANT? WHERE IS HE?

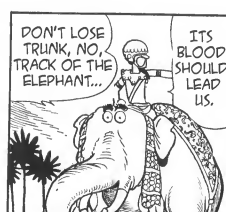
BLOOD FROM AN ELEPHANT.



I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM. THAT MAN SAVED MY LIFE.

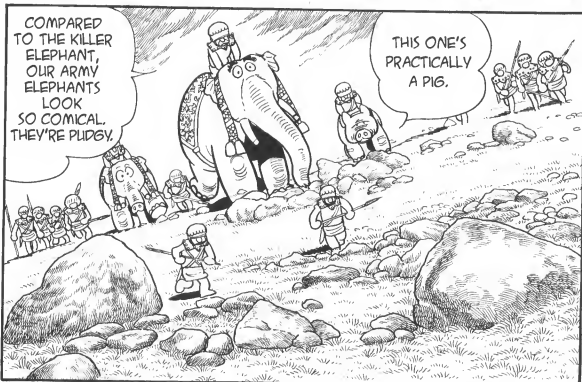


HE SEEMS TO HAVE FOLLOWED THE ELEPHANT



DON'T LOSE TRUNK, NO. TRACK OF THE ELEPHANT...

IT'S BLOOD SHOULD LEAD US.



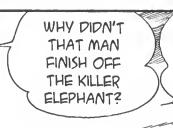
HERE'S AN ELEPHANT'S FOOTPRINT AND ANOTHER ONE OF A MAN.



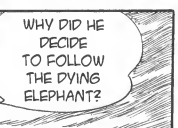
IT'S STILL FRESH AND STEAMING. THEY'RE NEAR.



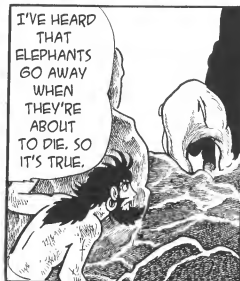
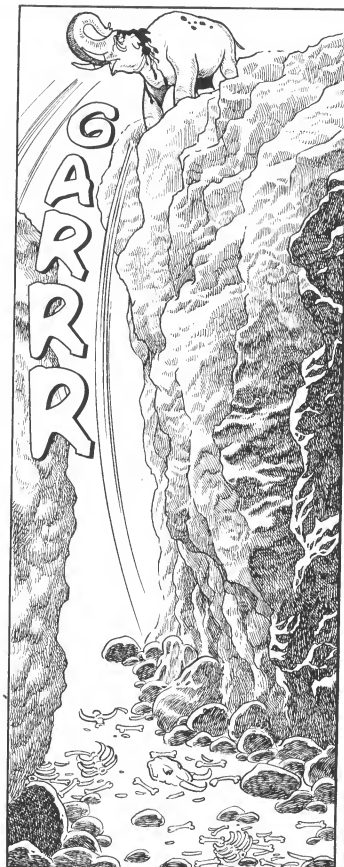
WHY THOUGH?

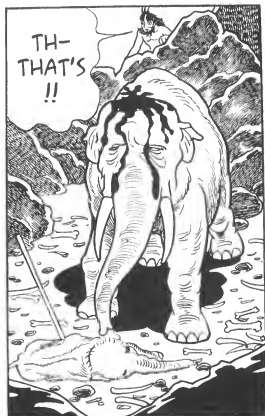
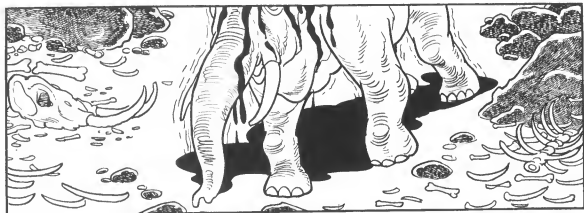


WHY DIDN'T THAT MAN FINISH OFF THE KILLER ELEPHANT?



WHY DID HE DECIDE TO FOLLOW THE DYING ELEPHANT?





TH-
THAT'S
!!



A BABY
ELEPHANT!
STABBED
WITH A
SPEAR!



I SEE!
SO HE'S
THE
FATHER!



GARR
LURRR

DRRS

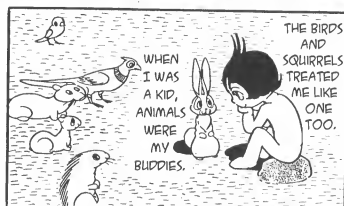


I SEE. NOW I GET WHY
HE ATTACKED HUMANS
AND TRIED TO KILL
A CHILD...



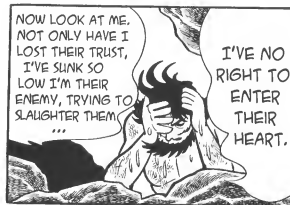
I HATED
THE
ELEPHANT
WITHOUT
A
THOUGHT
...

NO WONDER
I COULDN'T
POSSESS
HIS SOUL.



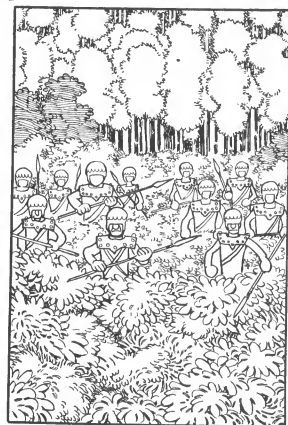
WHEN
I WAS
A KID,
ANIMALS
WERE
MY
BUDDIES.

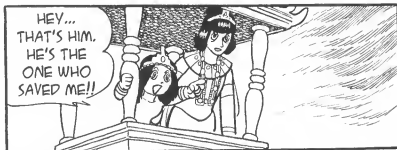
THE BIRDS
AND
SQUIRRELS
TREATED
ME LIKE
ONE
TOO.



NOW LOOK AT ME.
NOT ONLY HAVE I
LOST THEIR TRUST,
I'VE SUNK SO
LOW I'M THEIR
ENEMY, TRYING TO
SLAUGHTER THEM.
...

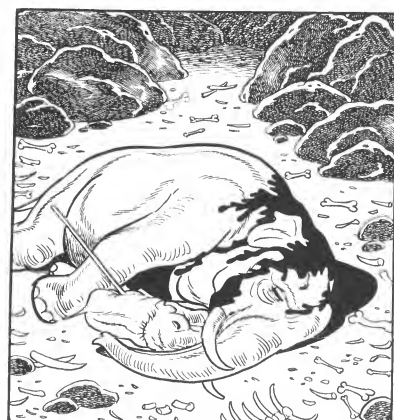
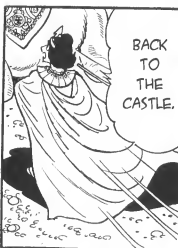
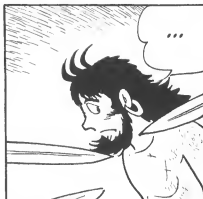
I'VE NO
RIGHT TO
ENTER
THEIR
HEART.



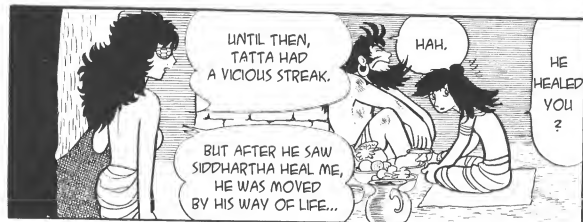
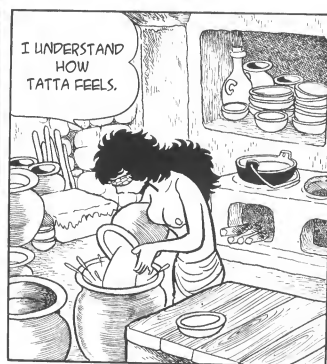




I WANT
TO KILL THE
ELEPHANT,
BRING IT
BACK AND
DISPLAY IT
TO THE
QUEEN AND
MY PEOPLE.









I DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
SAY IT...
HE'LL GIVE
HIMSELF
UP.



GIVE
HIMSELF
UP? WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



HE'LL SACRIFICE
HIMSELF
FOR OTHERS.

SO HE
WORKS
FOR OTHERS.



I WORK FOR
KING BIMBISARA
TOO.

NO, THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEAN...
IT'S NOT
LIKE A JOB.



BESIDES, WHAT DOES
THAT HAVE TO DO
WITH LETTING
THAT ELEPHANT
GO?



DEVADATTA,
YOU LOOK
SO GRIM.

YOUR
MAJESTY,
THERE IS
SOMETHING
I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.



MY MENTOR
TAUGHT ME
HOW THE WEAK PERISH
AND THE STRONG
SURVIVE.

ONE MUST FIGHT
TO SURVIVE
IN THIS WORLD.

TO LIVE IS
TO WIN.



AND
?

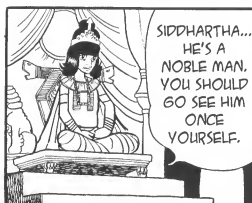


YOUR MAJESTY'S LOYAL
GUARD TATTA LEARNED
HOW TO SHOW MERCY
FROM A MAN NAMED
SIDDHARTHA...



MERCY...
IS SO
USELESS.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
IT AT
ALL.

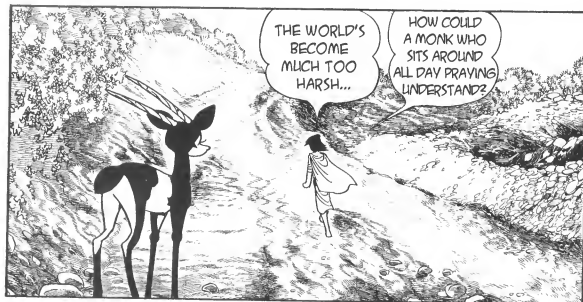


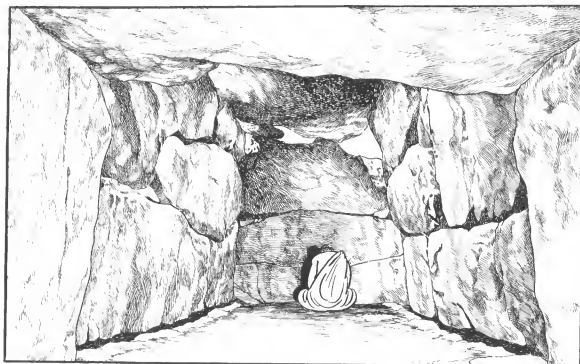
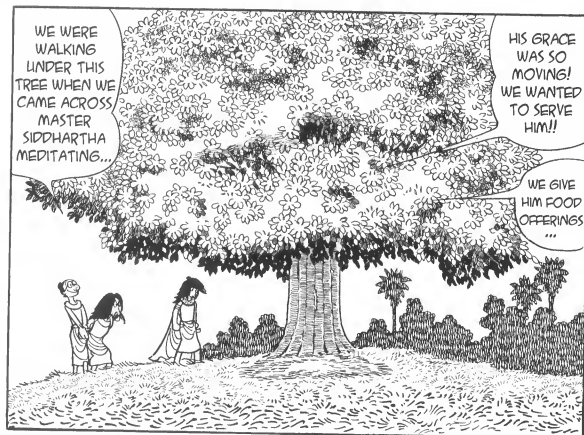
SIDDHARTHA...
HE'S A
NOBLE MAN.
YOU SHOULD
GO SEE HIM
ONCE
YOURSELF.



HELPING YOURSELF BY HELPING
OTHERS... ANYONE WHO TEACHES
THAT IS CRAZY...

IF YOU FOLLOWED SUCH A RULE
YOU'D END UP LOSING OUT
ALL THE TIME.







WHO IS IT?



HAAH... I WAS INTIMIDATED CUZ EVERYONE INSISTED HE WAS A GREAT MAN, BUT HE'S JUST A PALE-FACED MONK.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?



OH, I'M SORRY FOR INTRUDING LIKE THIS.



I CANNOT DIVULGE MY NAME, BUT I SERVE KING BIMBISARA.



WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?



I AM SITTING, FACING THE WALL.



PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU. JUST AN HOUR.



YOU SEEM TO BE TROUBLED.

THAT'S RIGHT...

I...



I AM SUFFERING.



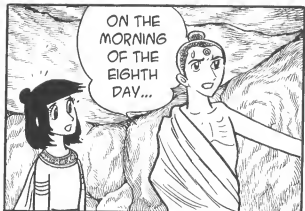
HOW MANY DAYS...



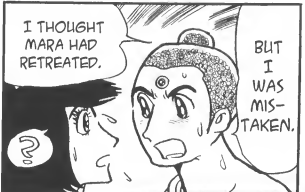
...DID I FIGHT MARA (DEVIL) UNDER THE TREE?



THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS POSSESSED BY MARA FOR SEVEN DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS. MARA TRIED TO SEDUCE ME AND CORRUPT ME.

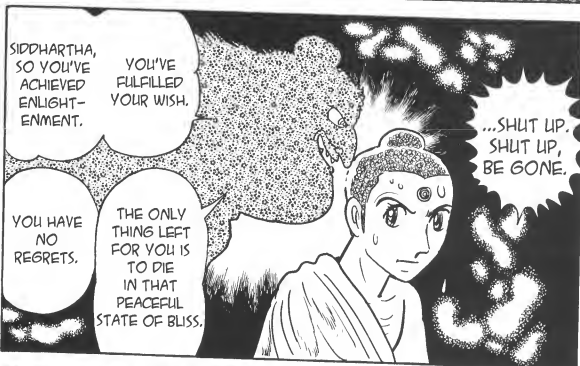
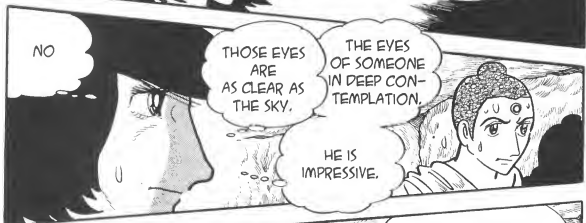


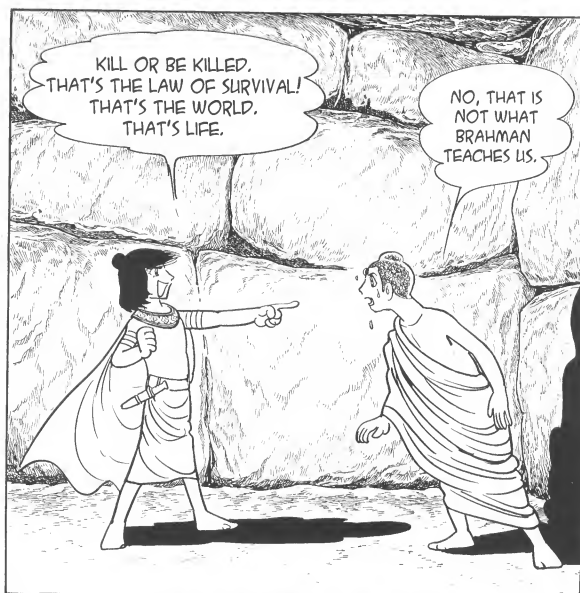
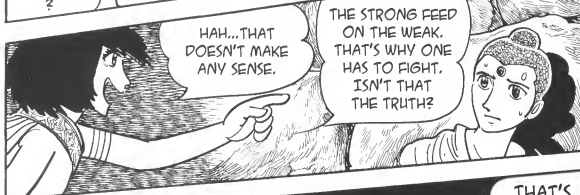
ON THE MORNING OF THE EIGHTH DAY...

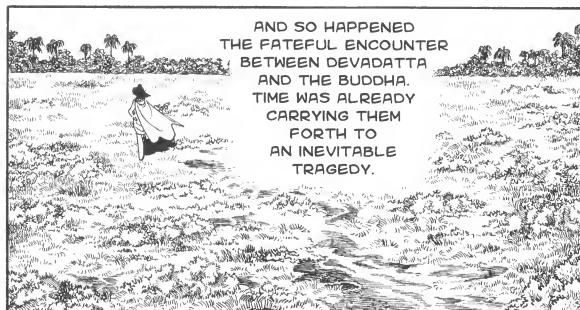


I THOUGHT MARA HAD RETREATED.

BUT I WAS MISTAKEN.

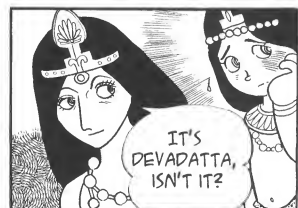
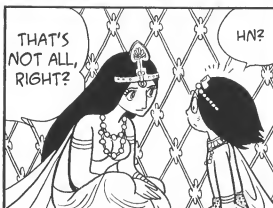
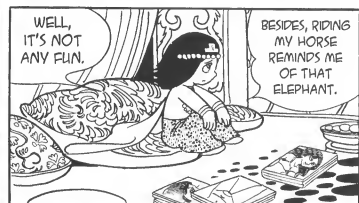
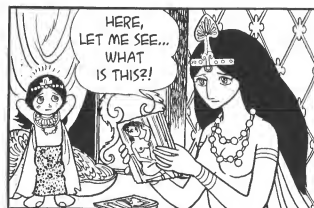


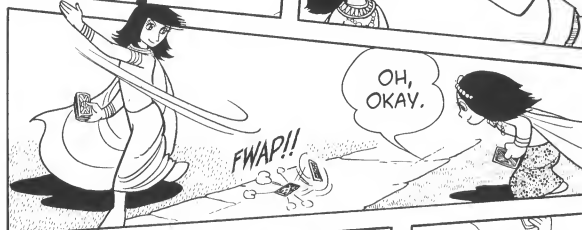
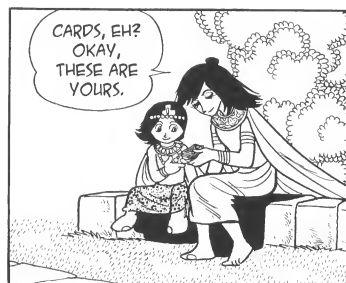
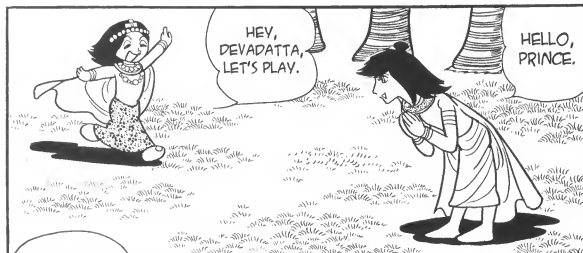


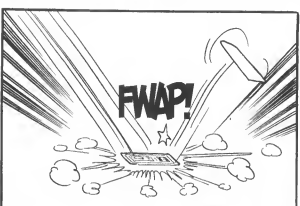
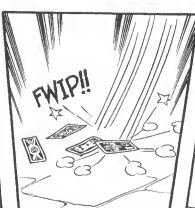
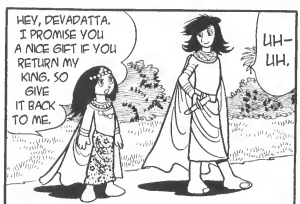
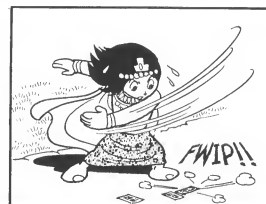


CHAPTER TWO

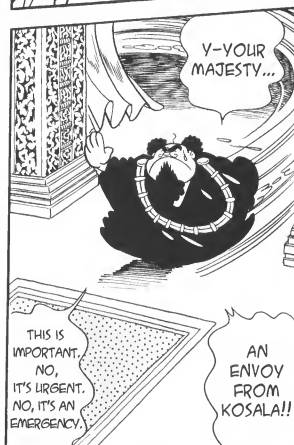
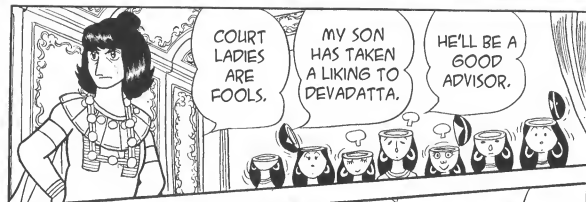
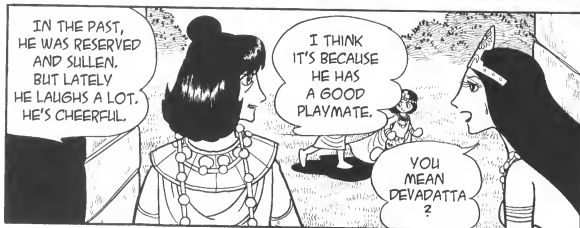
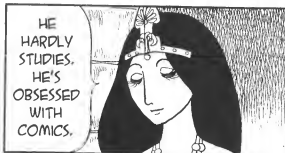
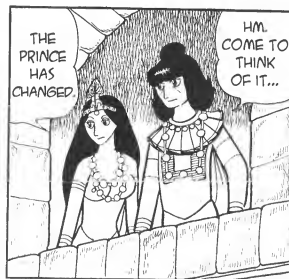
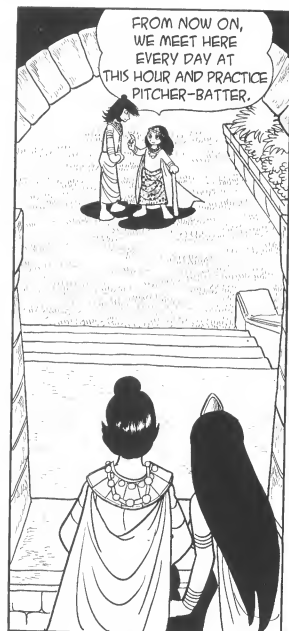
OPPONENTS













WE ARE SO HONORED TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO YOU, OH VENERABLE KING BIMBISARA.



I HOPE KING PRASENAJIT IS WELL.

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?



DOES HE WANT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE DISPUTED TERRITORY?

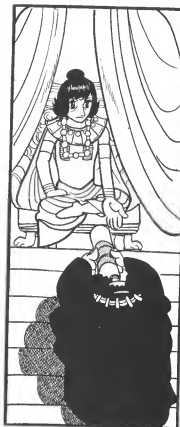
YES, EXACTLY, YOUR MAJESTY.



ALTHOUGH OUR REALMS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING OVER THE NORTHERN TERRITORY...

...THE KING OF KOSALA SEEKS TO SETTLE THIS MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL...

THIS IS HIS PROPOSAL !!



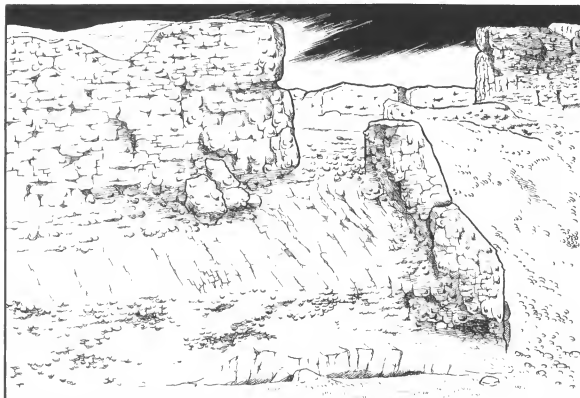
I, PRASENAJIT, KING OF THE NORTH, OFFER THIS PROPOSAL TO THIS BIMBISARA, KING OF THE SOUTH: TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE DISPUTED NORTHERN TRACTS, BOTH LEADERS SHALL NOMINATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO FIGHT IN A DUEL FOR HIS COUNTRY. THE WINNER'S SIDE SHALL BE GRANTED THE RIGHTS OVER THE TERRITORY. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPLY.



SO TWO WARRIORS, SELECTED BY EACH KINGDOM, ARE TO FIGHT. THE WINNER'S COUNTRY TAKES THE TERRITORY AND THE LOSER'S SIDE MUST COMPLY.



AH YES, PRECISELY, YOUR MAJESTY.



THE GREAT NORTHERN KINGDOM, KOSALA, AND THE EMERGING POWER TO THE SOUTH, MAGADHA, WERE SQUABBLING OVER THEIR BORDERS.

KING PRASENAJIT, THE KING OF KOSALA, WISHED THIS LINGERING DISPUTE TO COME TO AN END.



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SO...

TATTA... I'D LIKE YOU TO FIGHT FOR US.



YOU ARE STRONG. YOU WERE ABLE TO BEST THAT ELEPHANT.



OUR REPUTATION AND OUR RIGHT TO VAST TRACTS OF LAND DEPEND ON THIS DUEL. YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.



I'M NOT UP FOR IT AT ALL.

MY CALLUSES HURT.



THAT'S IMPOLITE, SAY, WHAT A GREAT HONOR, YOUR MAJESTY.

U-UH... WHAT A GREAT HONOR, YOUR MAJESTY.



AH!! SO YOU AGREE TO DO IT? I AM DELIGHTED!



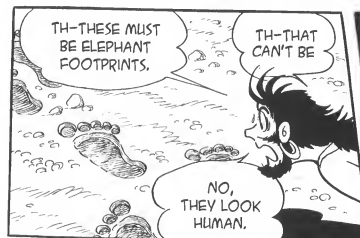
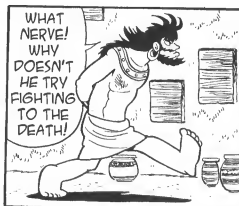
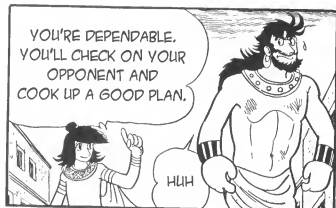
YOU JERK. I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.

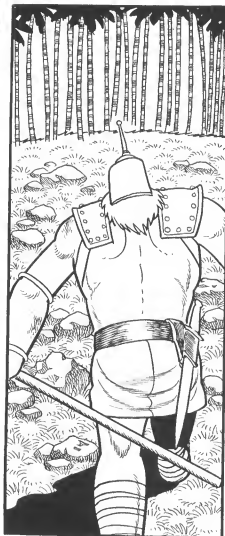
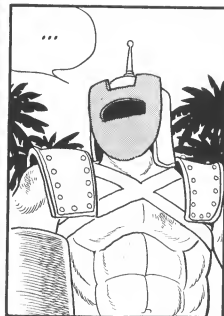
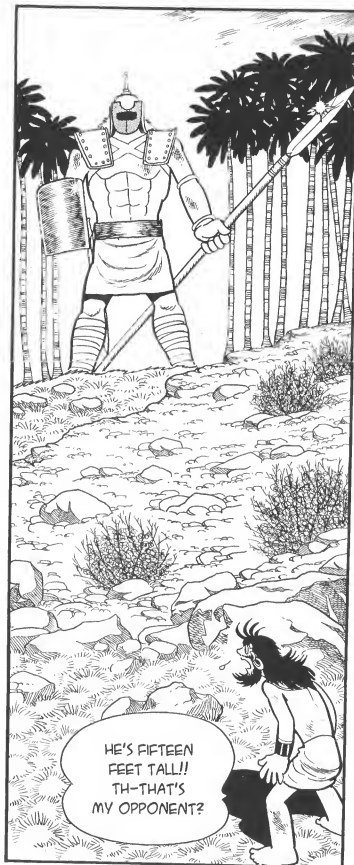
DON'T GET SO UPSET. YOU SHOULD ACCEPT THIS ONE.

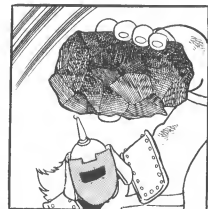
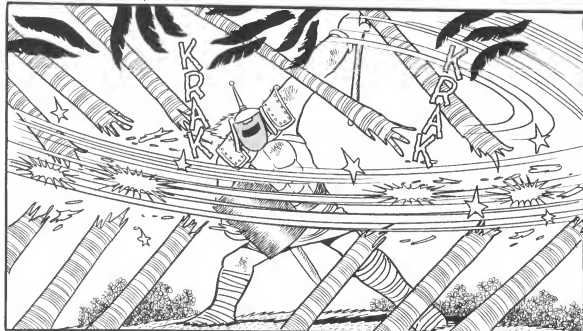
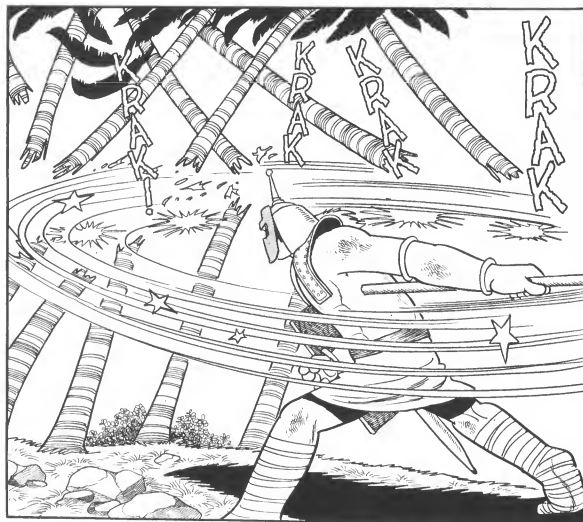


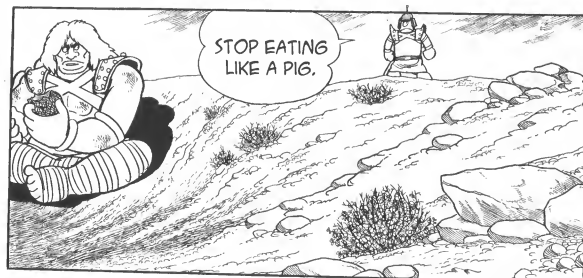
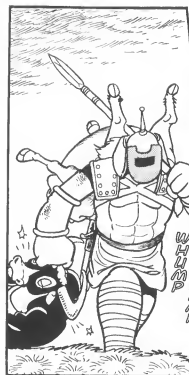
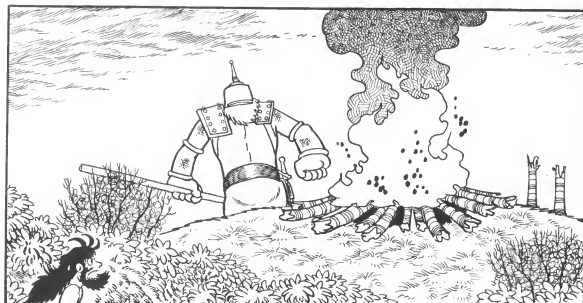
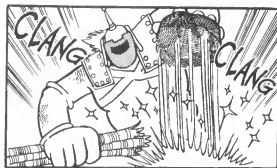
WHAT IF I LOSE? I DON'T WANNA BE RESPONSIBLE !!

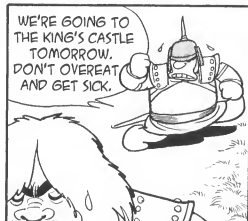
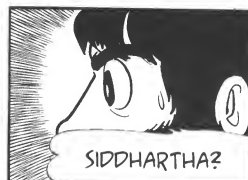
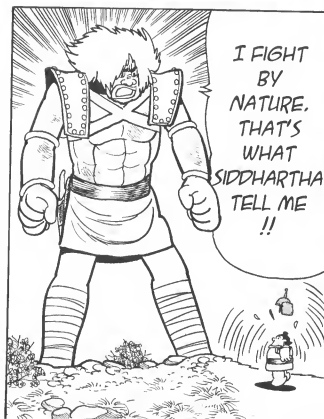
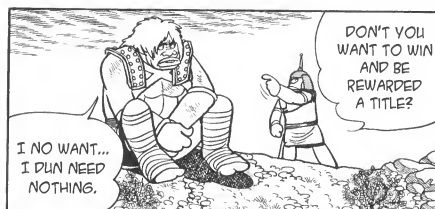
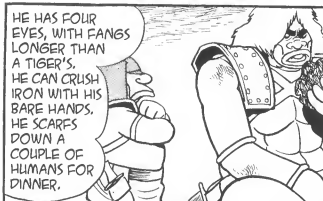
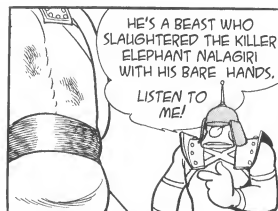
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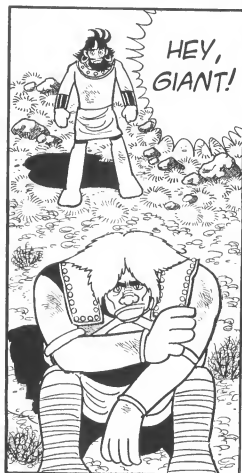
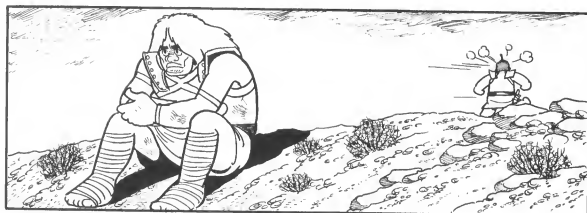






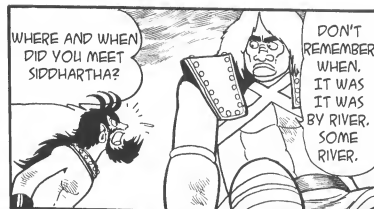




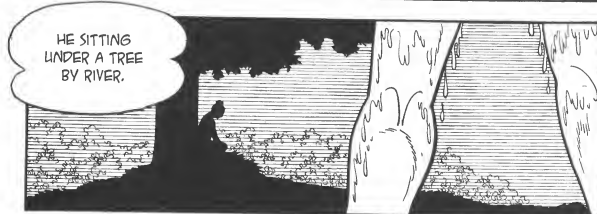


I HEARD
YOU FROM
THE BUSHES.

YOU
MEAN
THE
SAMANNA,
SIDDHARTHA?



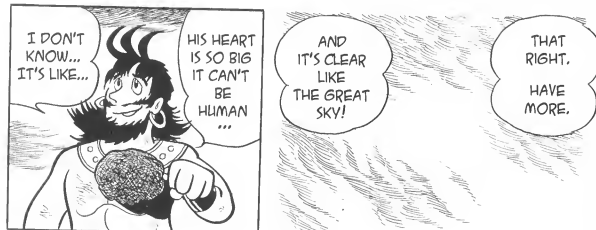
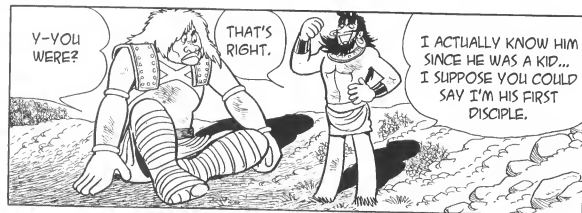
DON'T
REMEMBER
WHEN.
IT WAS
BY RIVER.
SOME
RIVER.

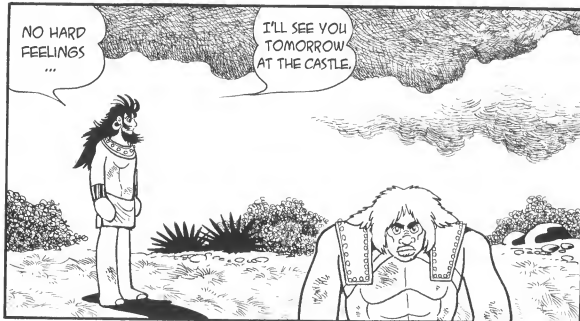
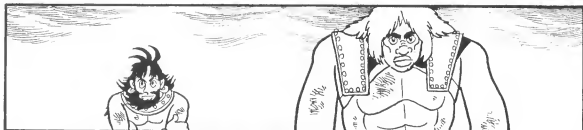
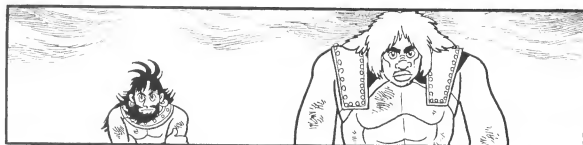


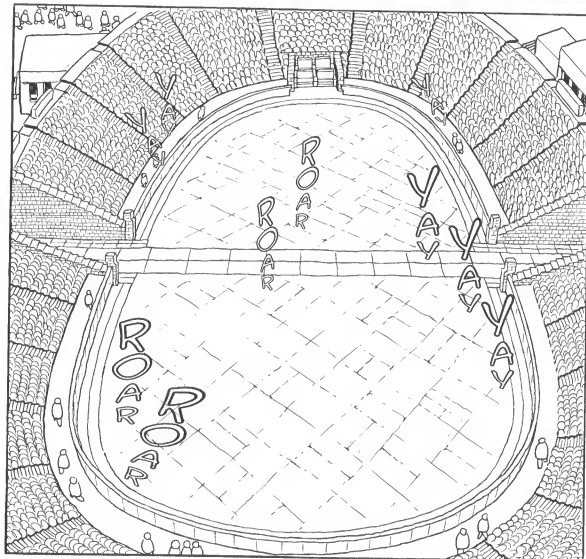
SIDDHARTHA IS
GREAT PERSON.

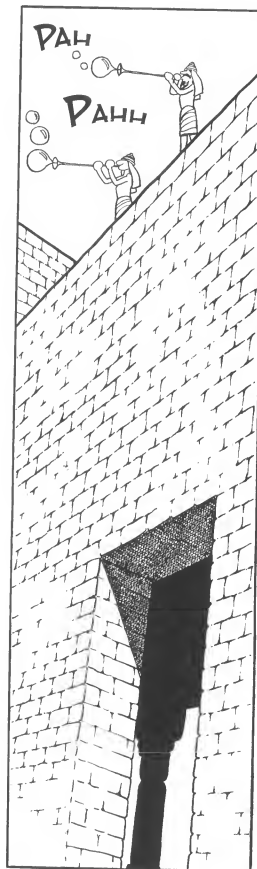
I WANT
TO BE DISCIPLE.
I WILL BE...



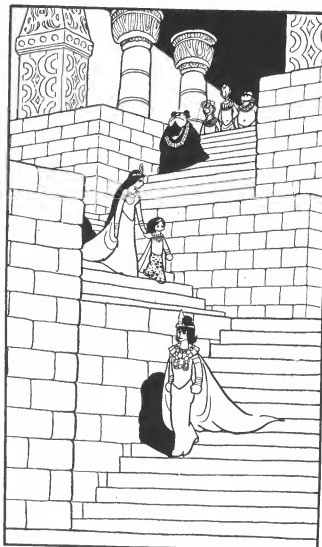








LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE KING AND QUEEN.



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SO IT'S ABOUT TO START.

THE WINNER GETS THE NORTHERN LANDS, RIGHT?

THAT'S REALLY OUR TERRITORY ANYWAY.

WHO'S THE ENEMY'S FIGHTER?

YOU SAID IT.



TATTA. YOUR OPPONENT IS A GIANT WHO'S FIFTEEN FEET TALL. YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME STRATEGY TO TAKE HIM ON.

I KNOW. SHUT UP.



JUST WING IT THROUGH THE FIRST HALF. DON'T USE UP YOUR STRENGTH.

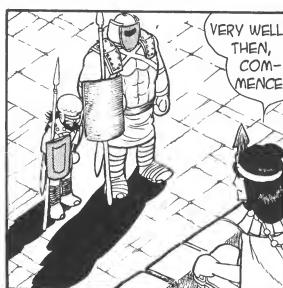
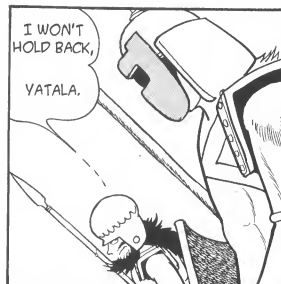
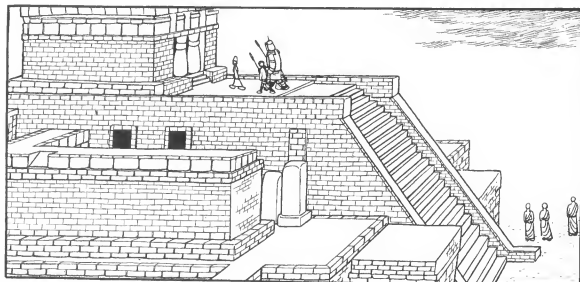
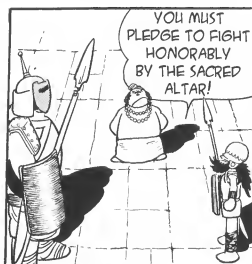
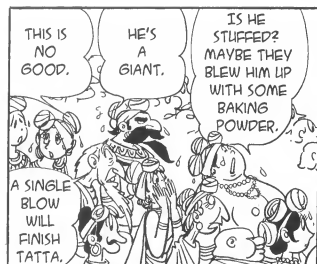


SNEAK AROUND HIM IN THE SECOND HALF AND THEN GO FOR HIS HEEL!



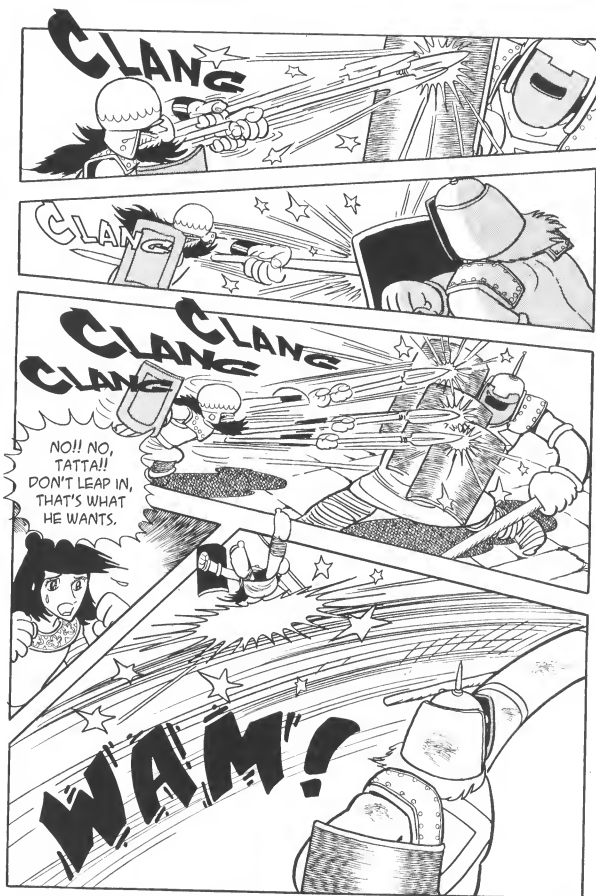
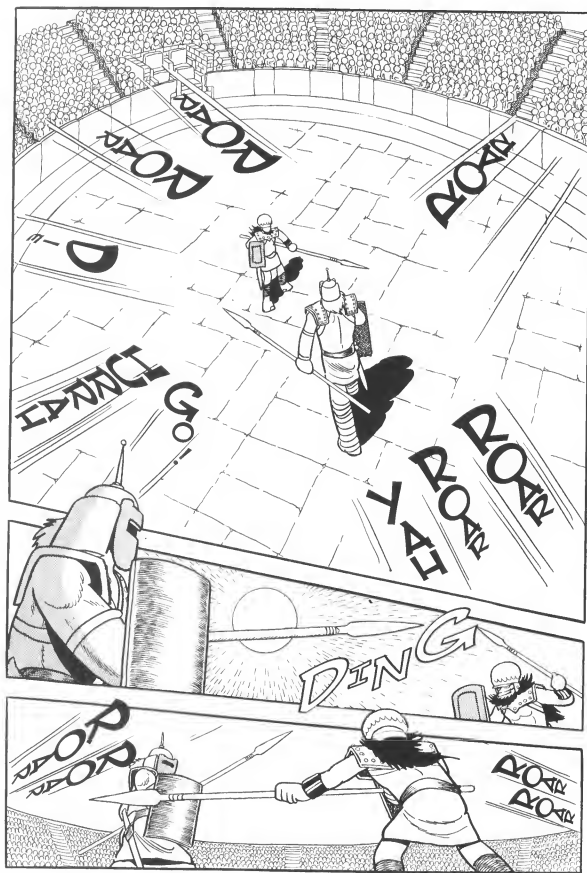
NO MATTER HOW BIG HE IS, HE'LL HAVE TO FALL! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND!

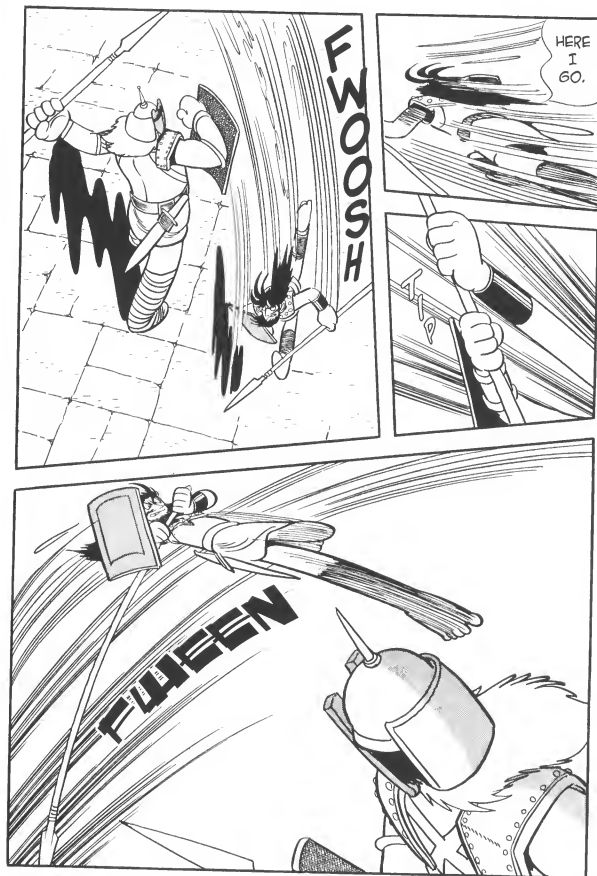
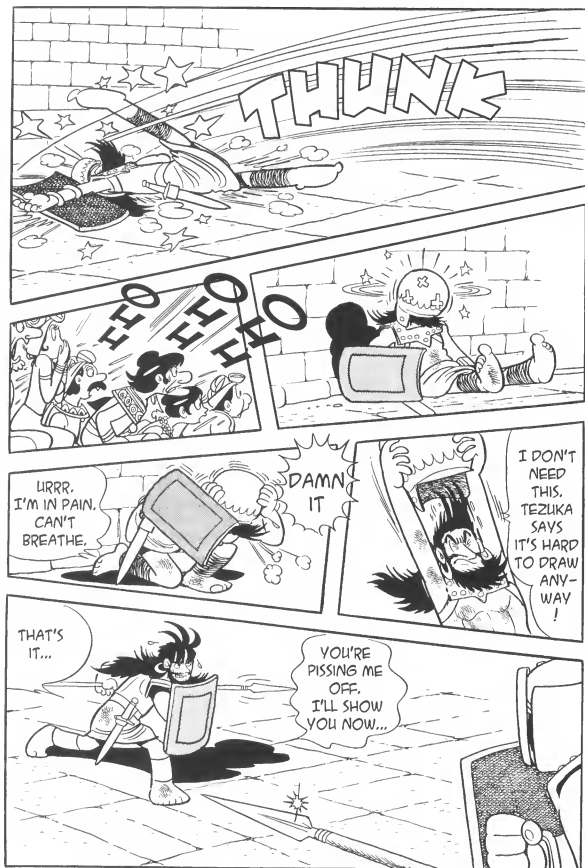
127



CHAPTER THREE

SHOWDOWN



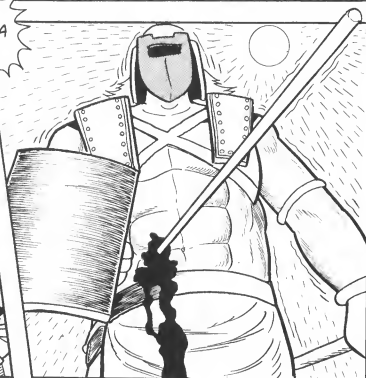
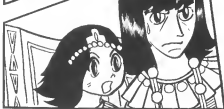




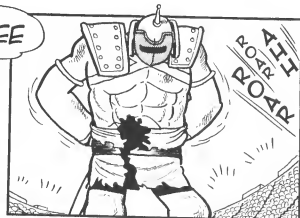
136



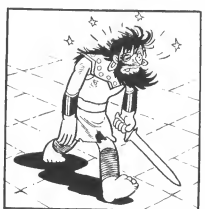
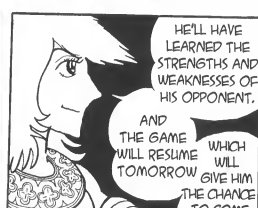
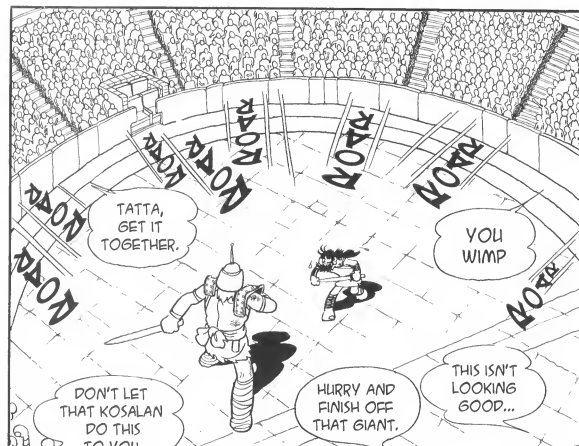
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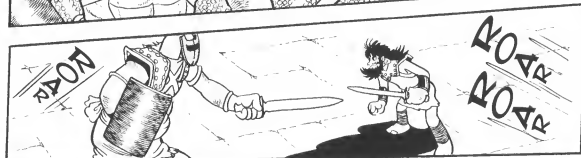
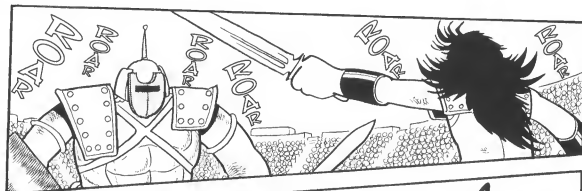
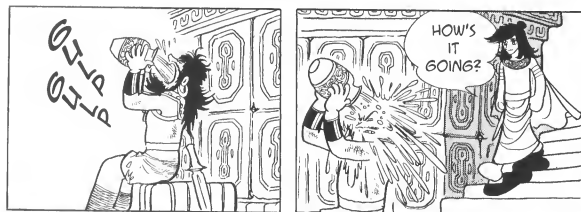


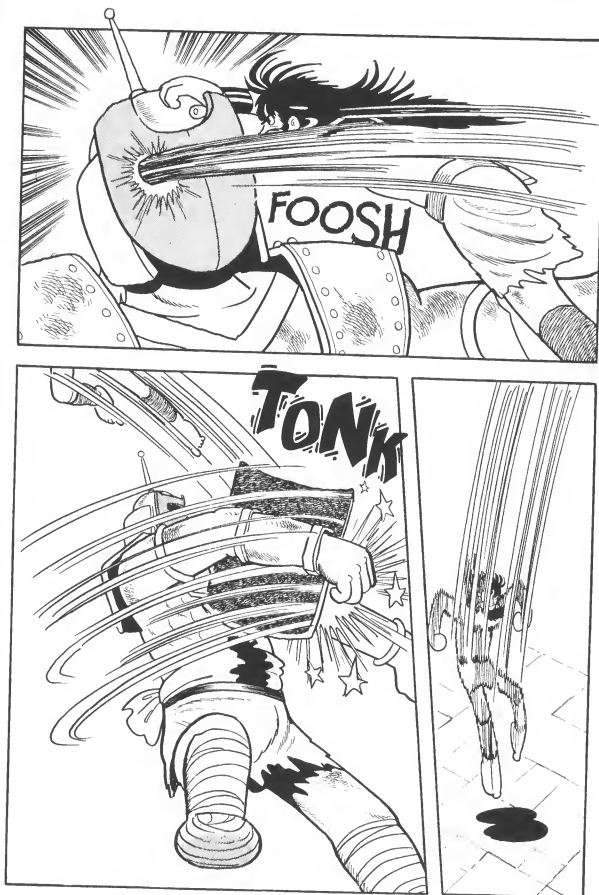
138

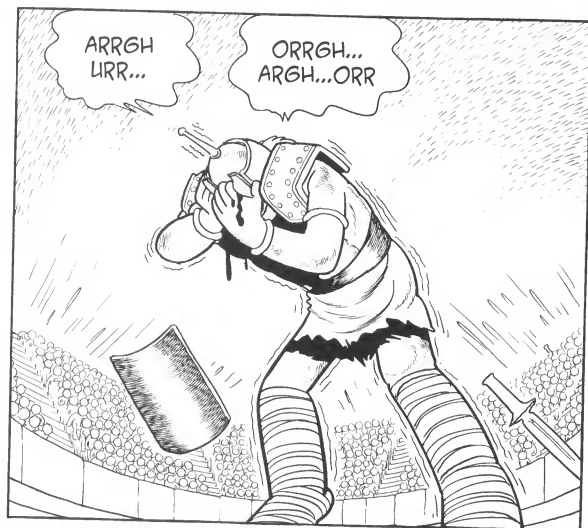


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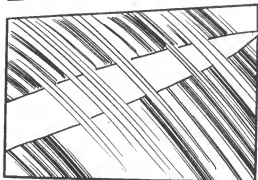
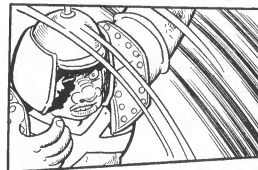
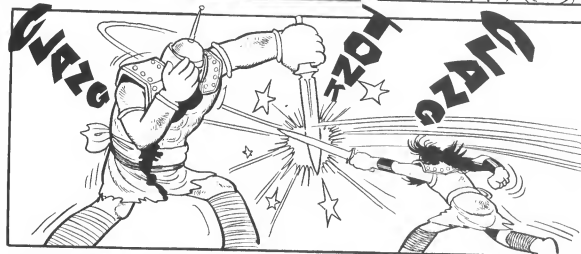
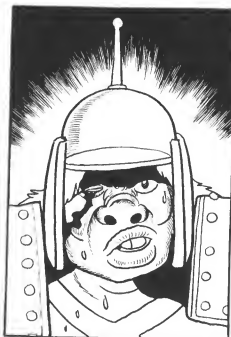




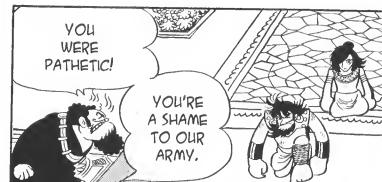
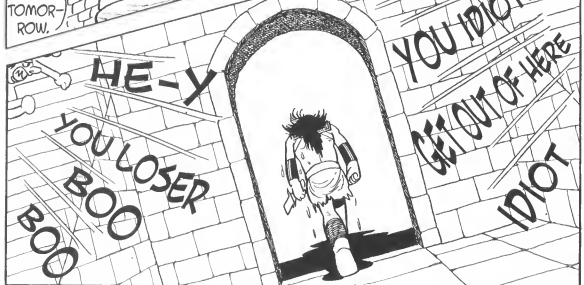




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149







ONCE
I'M IN
KOSALA...

YOU KNOW
WHAT I'LL DO,
MIGAILA.



YOU...
YOU'RE
PLANNING
ON KILLING
THE KING
OF KOSALA.



THAT'S RIGHT!
I'LL KILL HIM. I'LL
FIND THE RIGHT
OPPORTUNITY
AND THEN
I'LL SLAUGHTER
HIS ENTIRE
FAMILY!!



WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
TO YOU?

I
DON'T
KNOW.



I PLEDGED
MY LIFE TO
AVENGING CHAPRA
AND HIS MOM.

ONCE
I FULFILL THAT,
MY LIFE WILL
BE OVER TOO.

THERE'S
NO WAY
I CAN
STOP YOU,
I KNOW.



PLEASE
DON'T
FORGET
THOUGH...

...WHAT
WE
PROMISED
SIDDHAR-
THA.



WHEN
SIDDHARTHA
BECOMES
A GREAT
MONK...

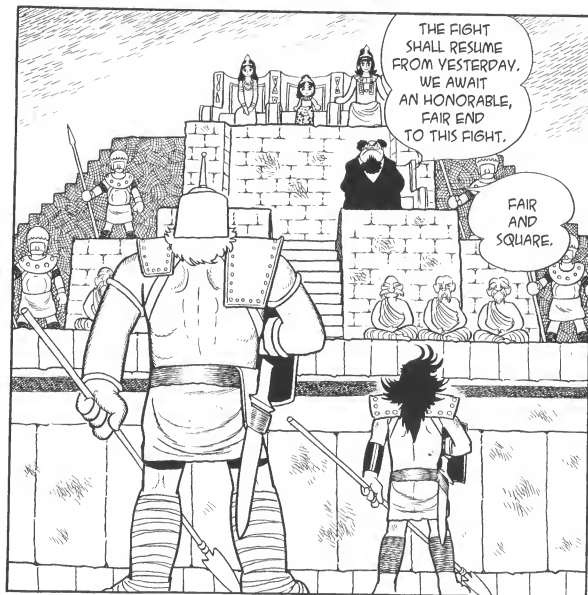
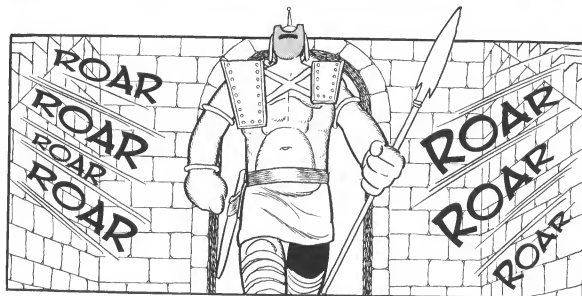
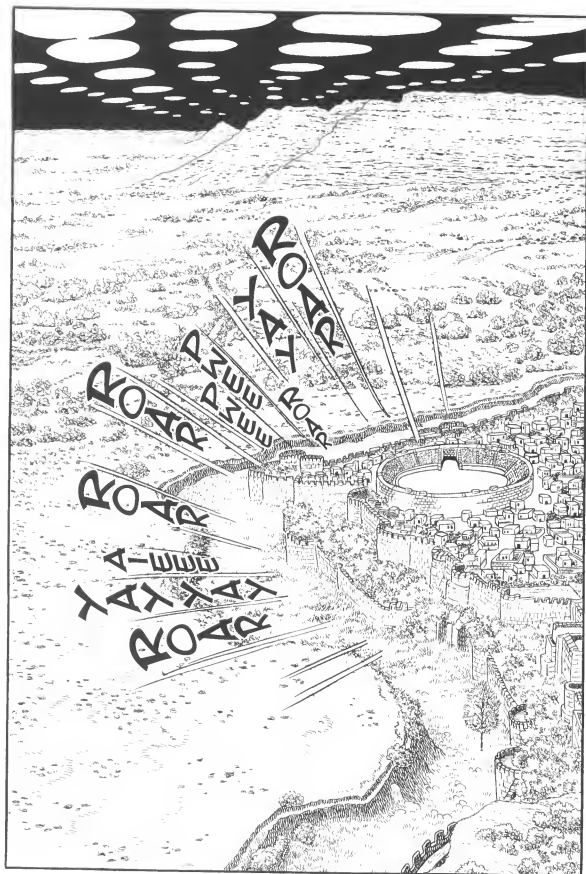
...YEAH,
THE
TWO OF
US WILL
BE HIS
FIRST
DISCIPLES.

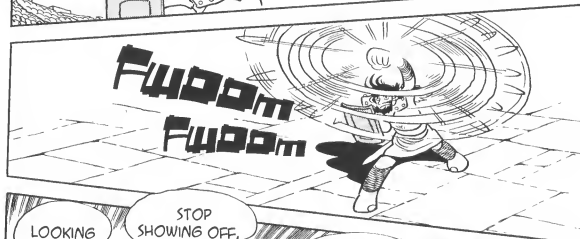
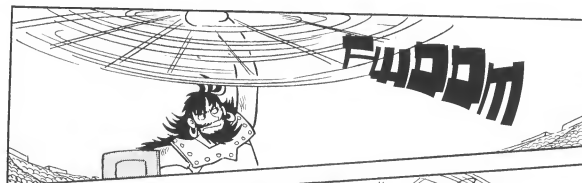
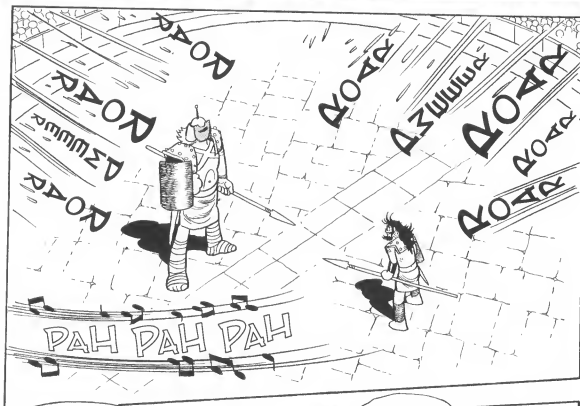


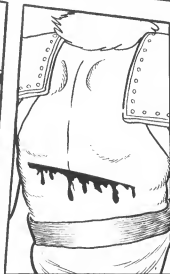
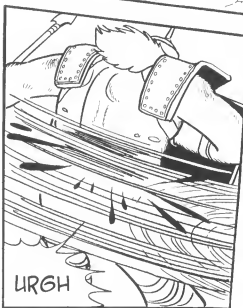
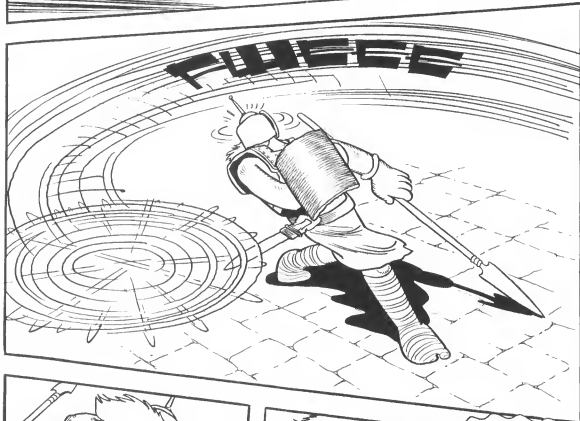
IF I'M NOT
AROUND,
WILL YOU BE
THERE
FOR ME TOO,
MIGAILA?

NO,
WE'RE GOING
TO BE THERE
TOGETHER.





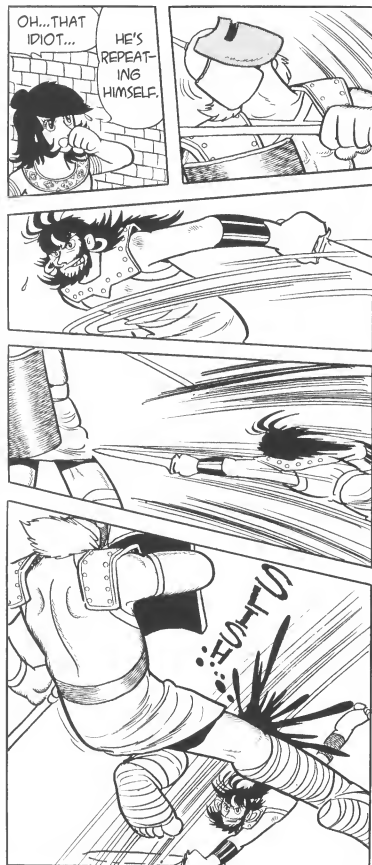
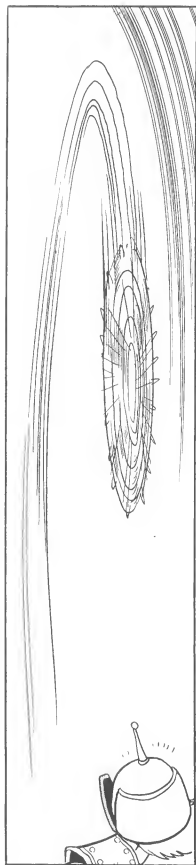


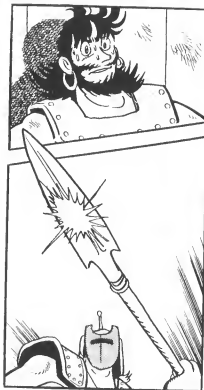
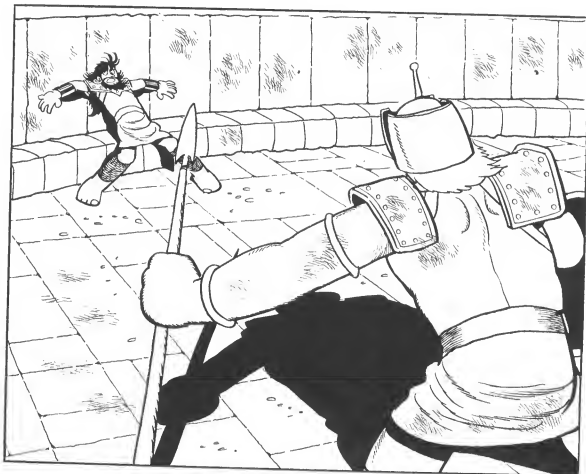
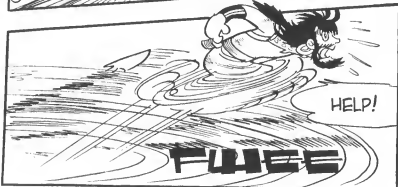
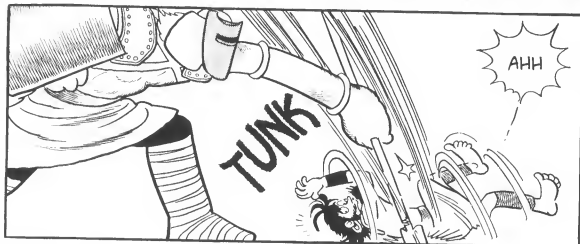
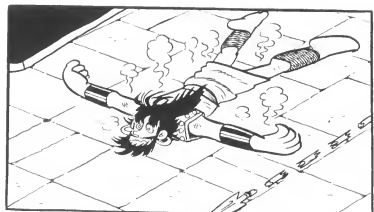


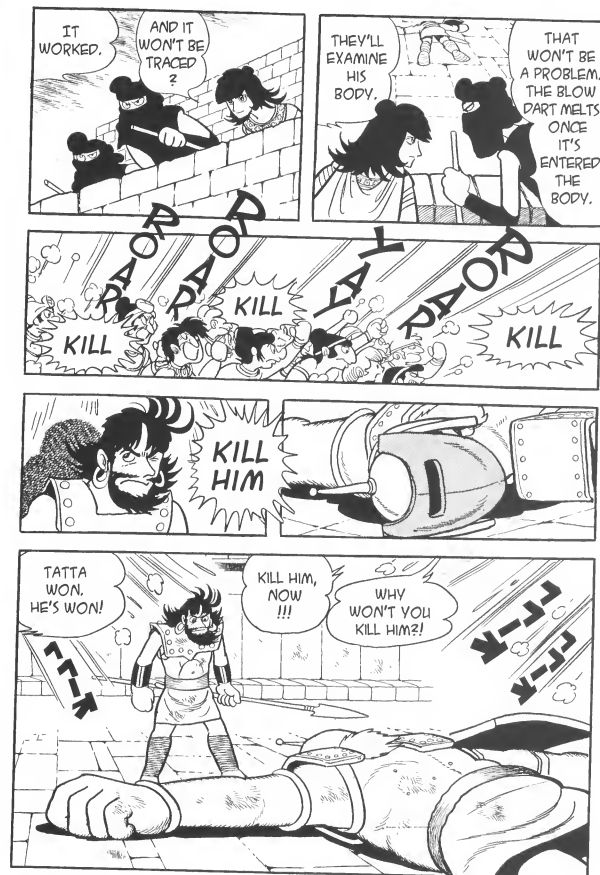
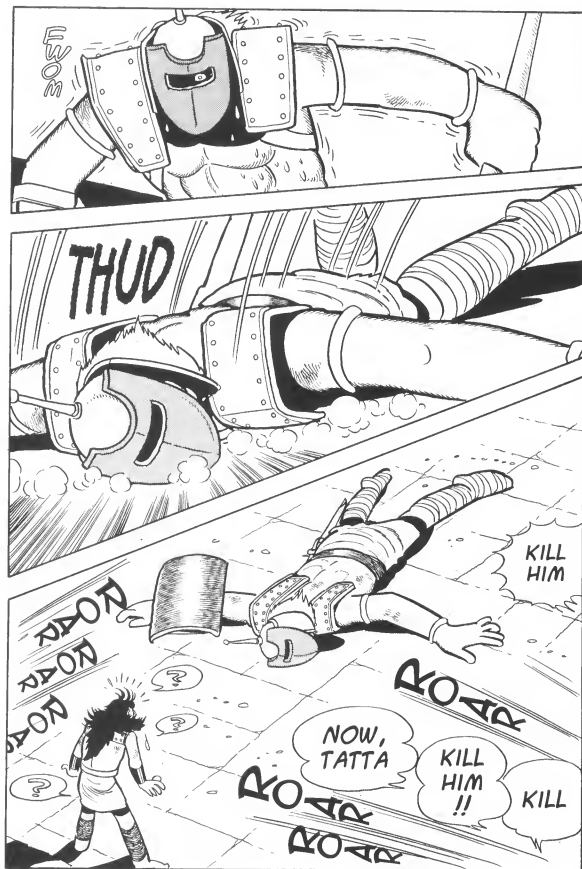
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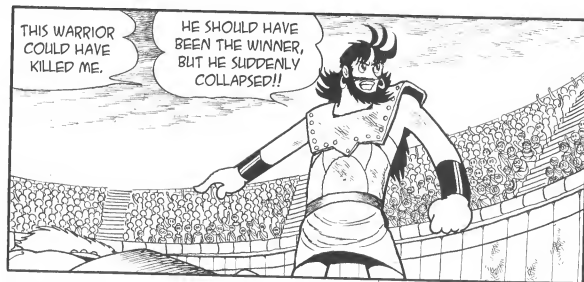


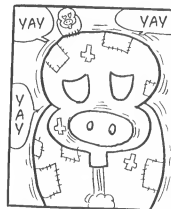
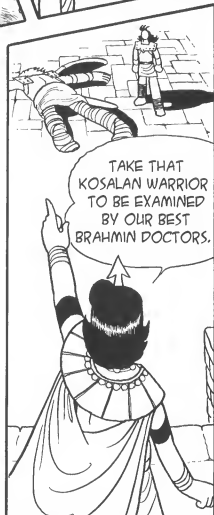
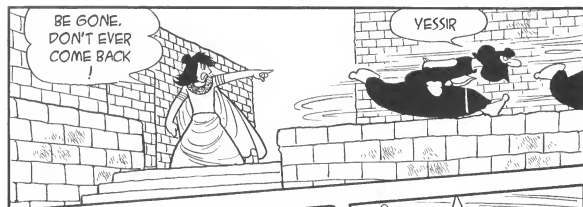
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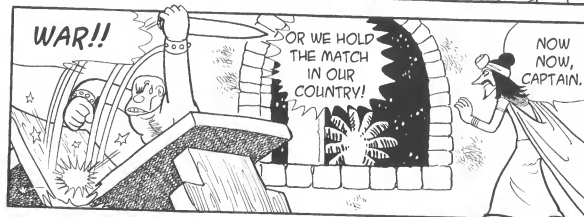
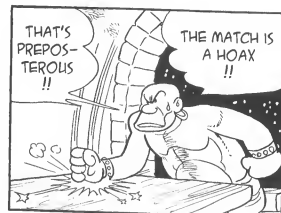
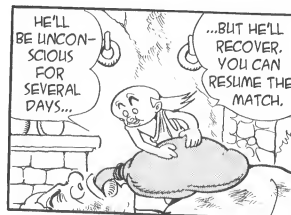
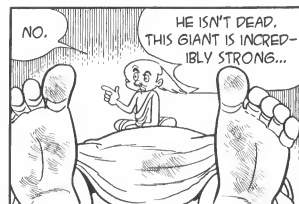
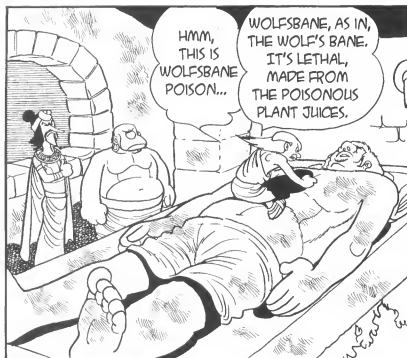
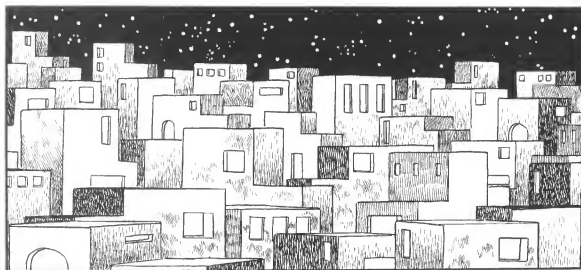


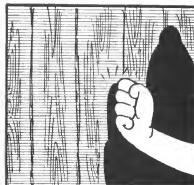




CHAPTER FOUR

CRISIS





AH, DEVADATTA,
HOW WAS THE WOLFSBANE
POISON I PROVIDED?

SHH!



I'M HERE TO
PURCHASE
SOMETHING
ELSE TONIGHT.

HEE HEE, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
A POTION THAT MAKES YOU PALE?
ONE THAT PUFFS UP THE BODY?
OR ONE THAT TURNS
WHITE TEETH INTO CAVITIES,
AND EXTENDS THE TONGUE
BY A FOOT?



I'D
LIKE...

...A POTION
THAT MAKES
YOU PERMA-
NENTLY
MUTE.



HEE HEE,
THAT'S EASY...

IT'S
CALLED
LIP
FREEZER
...



HERE
YOU ARE
...



TWENTY-
FIVE
GOLD
COINS...



NOT
CHEAP,
EH?

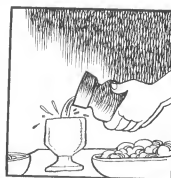
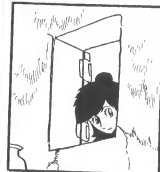


I'D
LIKE TO
TEST
IT.

TRY IT ON
AN ALLEY
CAT AND
IT'LL STOP
VOWL-
ING.



THAT'S
NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH
...



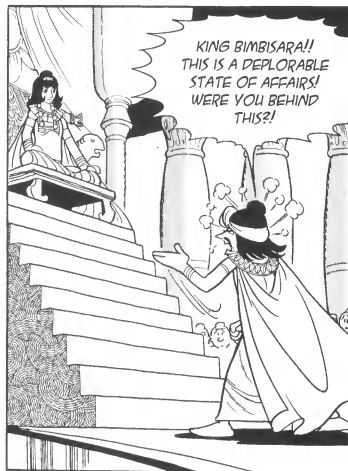
LINGH

ARRGH



URR...ARR...
AHH...ARR...
!!

I SEE.
IT
WORKS.



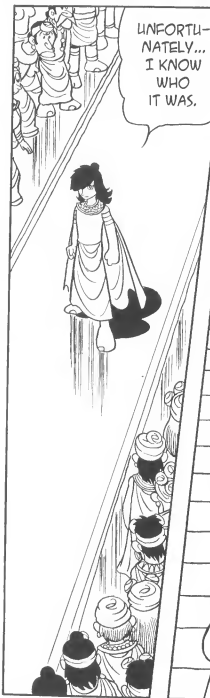


DID ANYONE
SEE THE
CULPRIT?

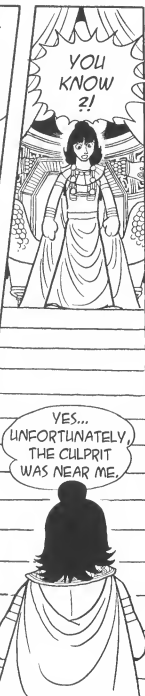


...

...

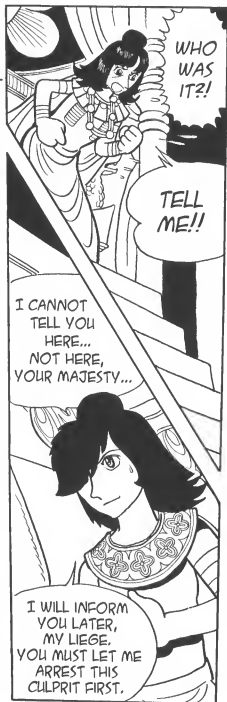


UNFORTU-
NATELY...
I KNOW
WHO
IT WAS.



YOU
KNOW
?!

YES...
UNFORTUNATELY,
THE CULPRIT
WAS NEAR ME.



WHO
WAS
IT?!

TELL
ME!!

I CANNOT
TELL YOU
HERE...
NOT HERE,
YOUR MAJESTY...

I WILL INFORM
YOU LATER,
MY LIEGE.
YOU MUST LET ME
ARREST THIS
CULPRIT FIRST.



NO

TELL ME
RIGHT NOW.
I WANT HIM
BROUGHT
HERE
SO I CAN
JUDGE HIM.

AND
HAND
HIM
OVER
TO THE
EMISSA-
RY.



THAT WOULD
BE ILL-
ADVISED...

IF THE CULPRIT'S
NAME IS PUBLICIZED,
IT WILL HURT
ANOTHER'S
REPUTATION.

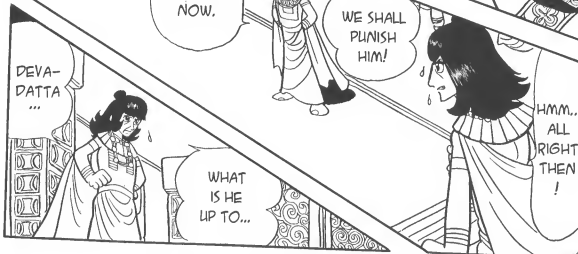
A MAN
YOU
TREAS-
URE.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?!

PLEASE,
YOUR
MAJESTY.

LET ME
HANDLE
THIS
AFFAIR.



I WANT
THE
ASSASSIN
NOW.

WE SHALL
PUNISH
HIM!

HMM...
ALL
RIGHT
THEN
!

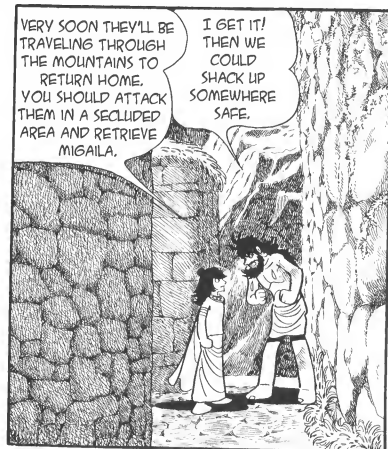
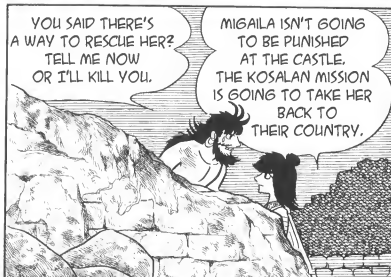
DEVA-
DATTA
...

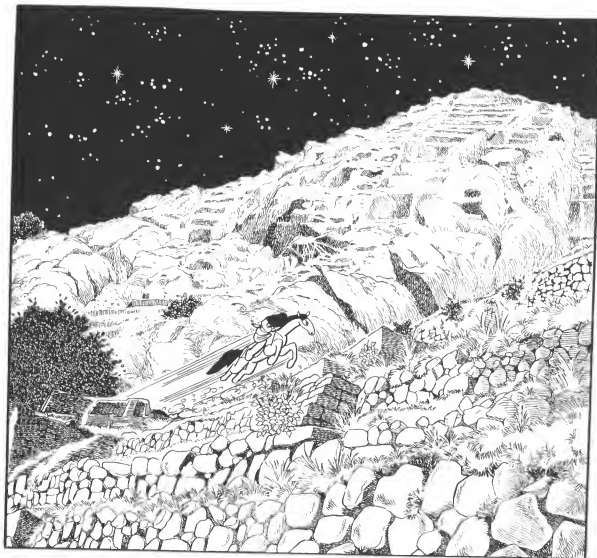
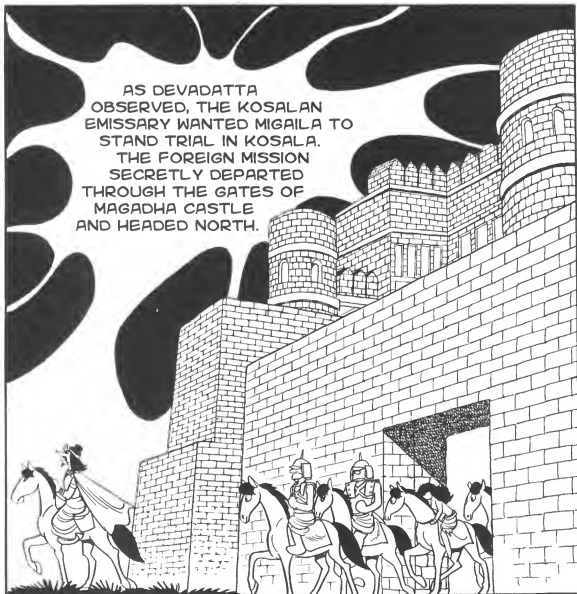
WHAT
IS HE
UP TO...

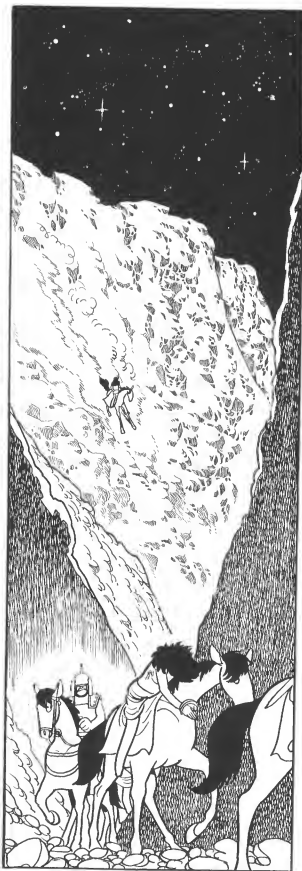
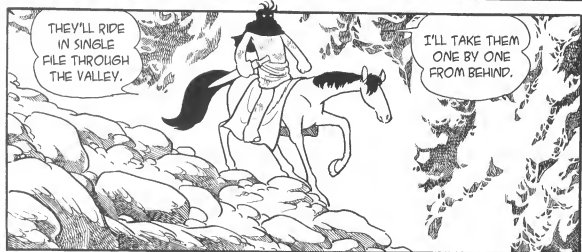


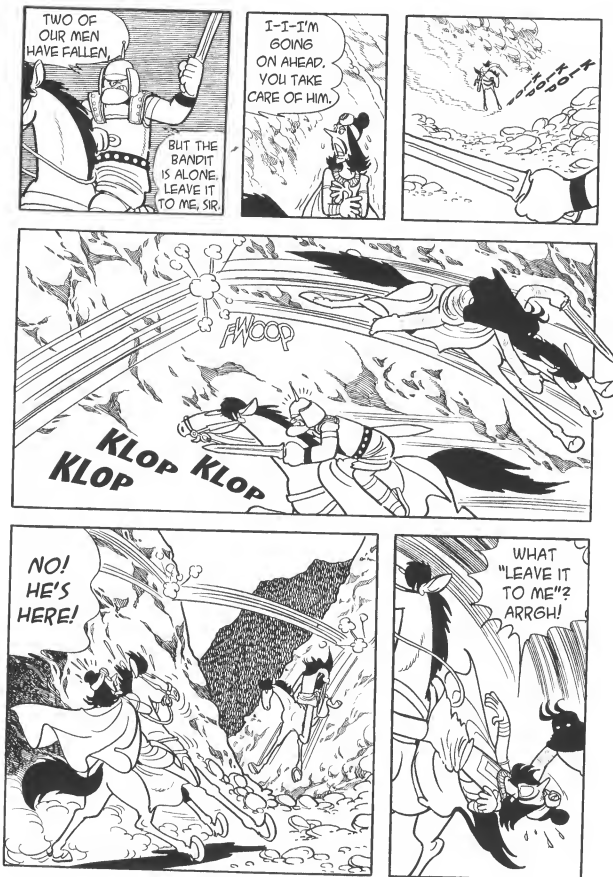
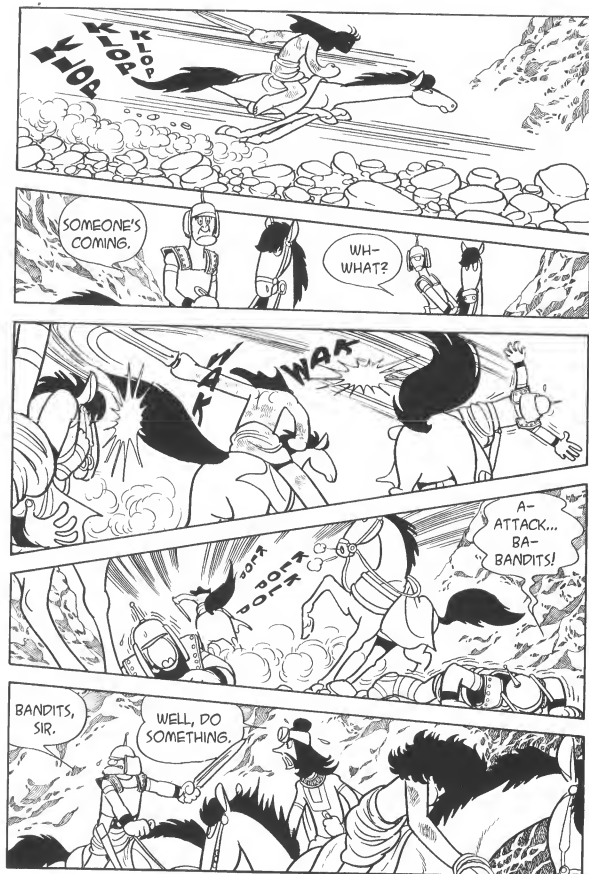


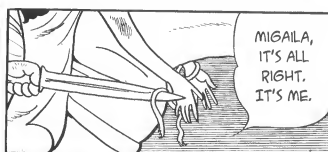
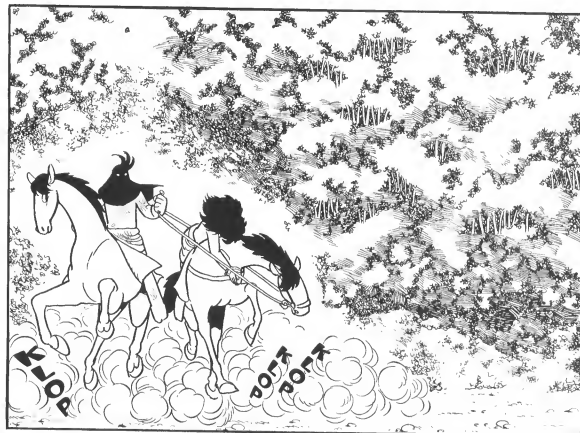
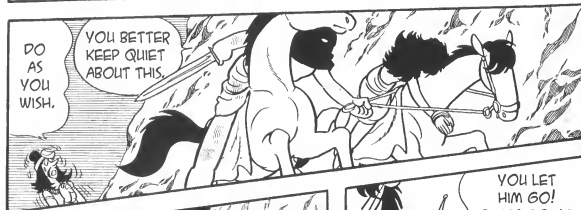
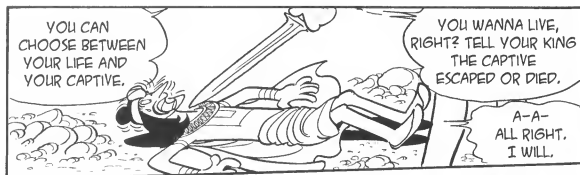




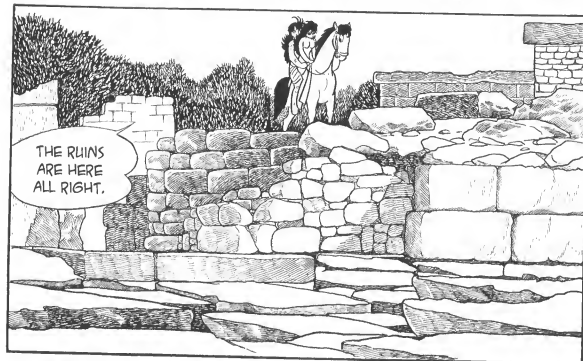
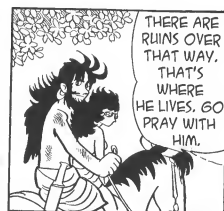
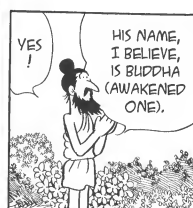
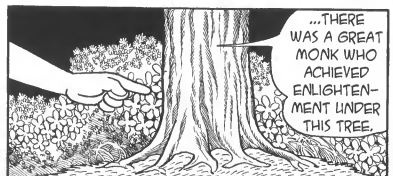
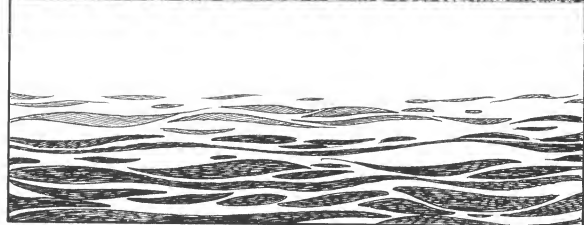


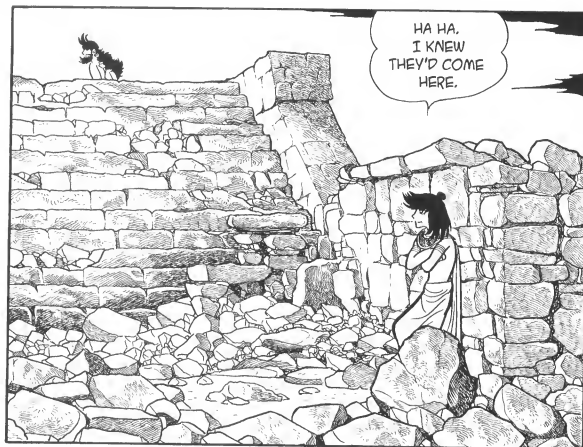




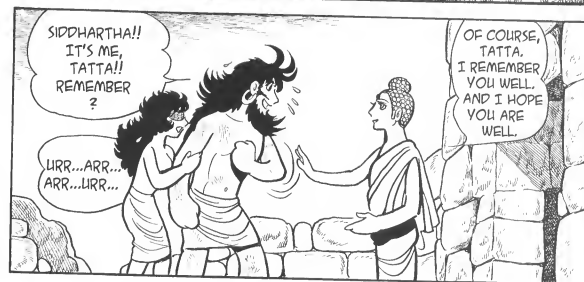




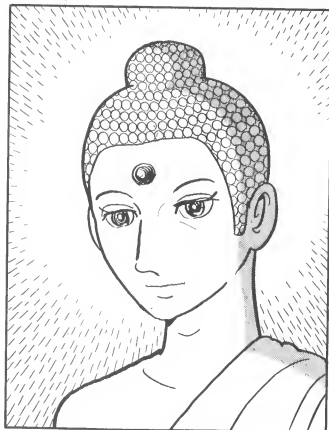
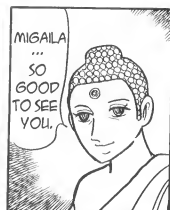


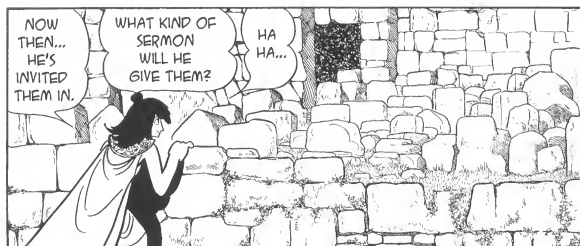


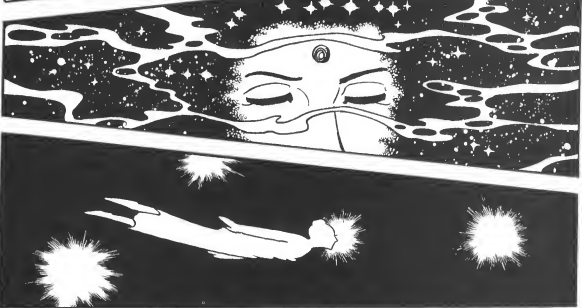
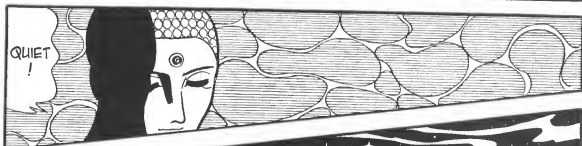
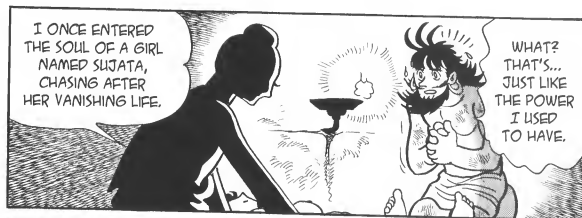
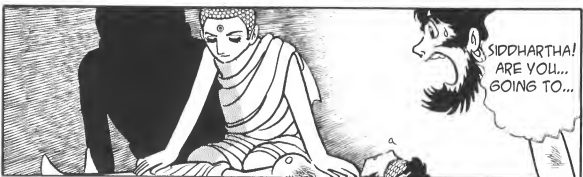
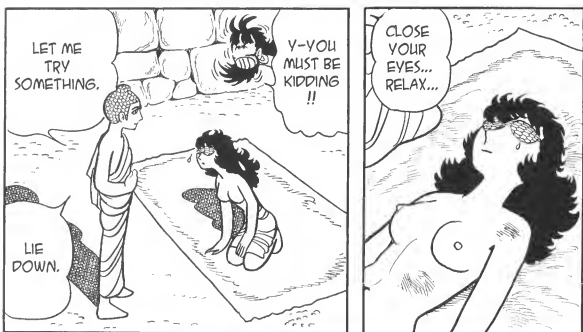
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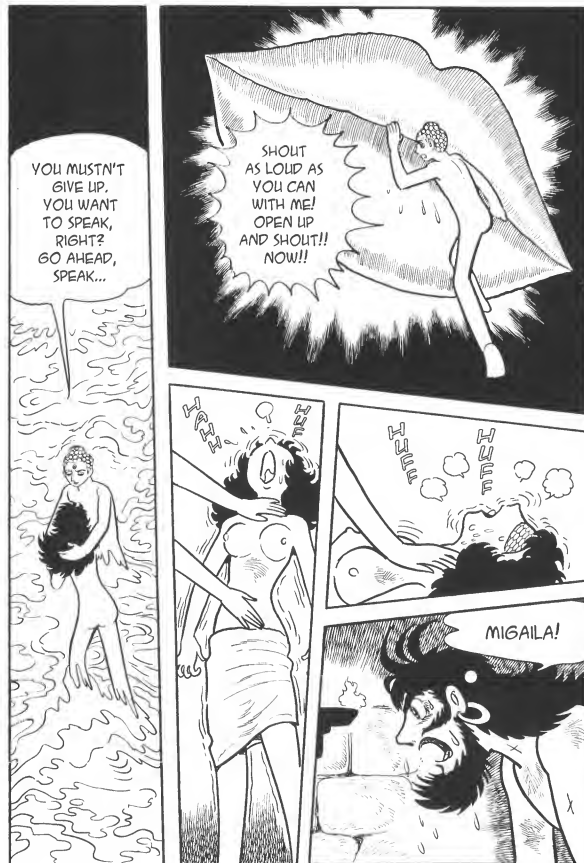


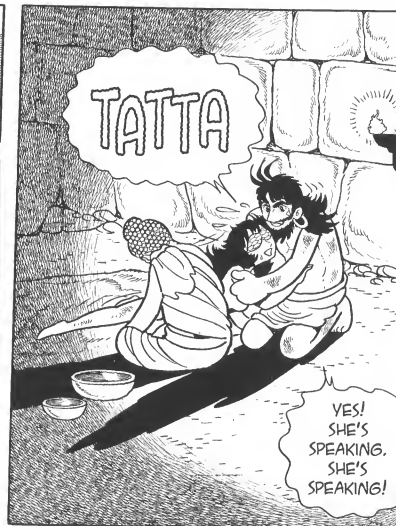
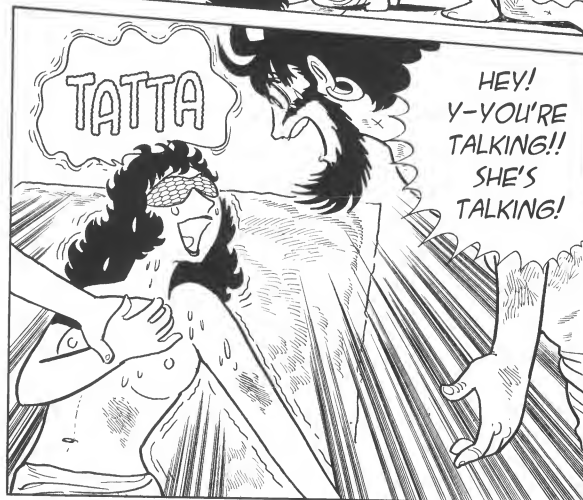
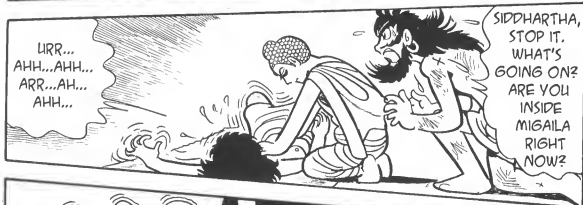
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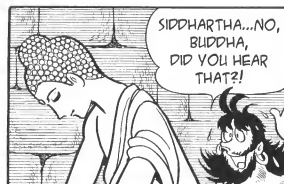


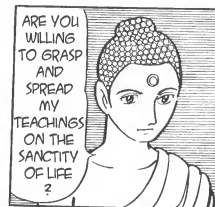
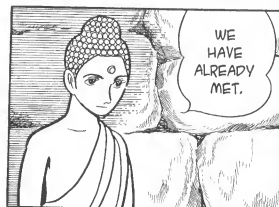
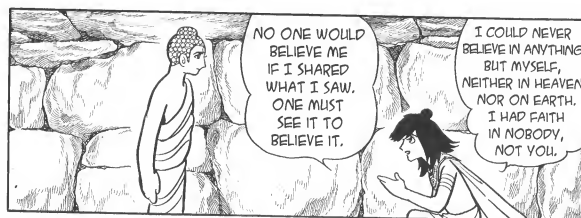
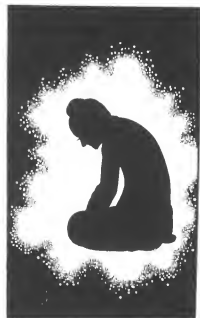


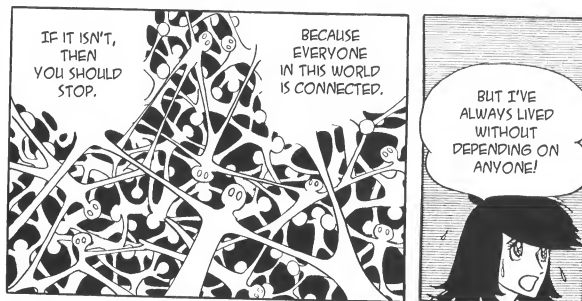
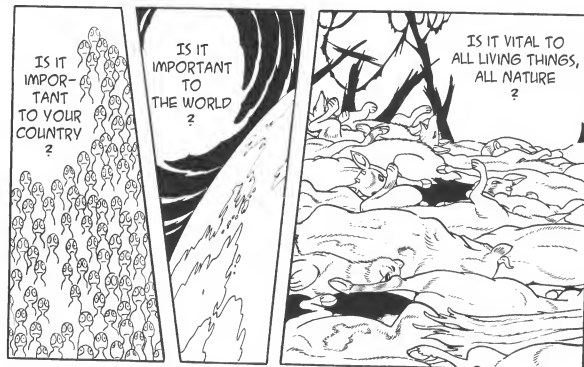
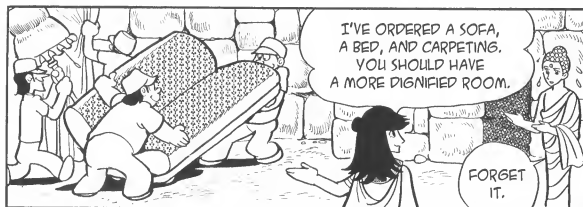
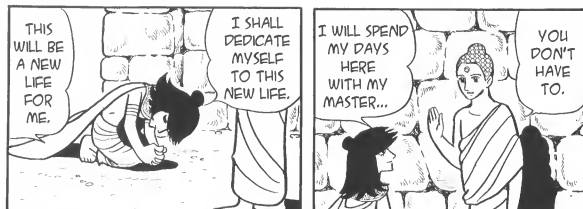


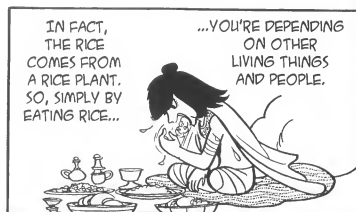




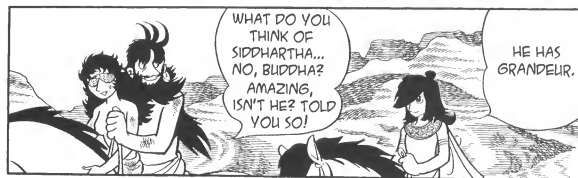
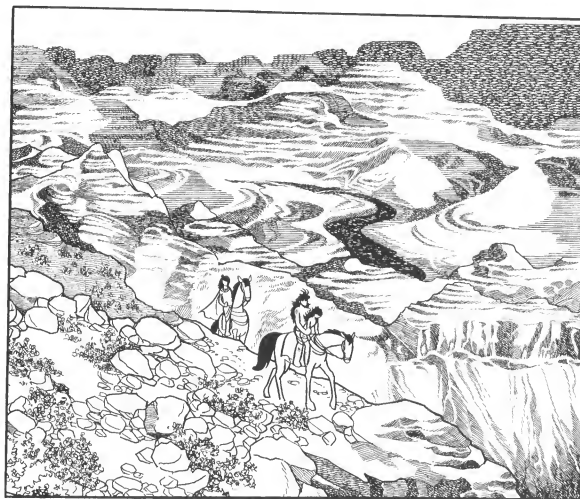
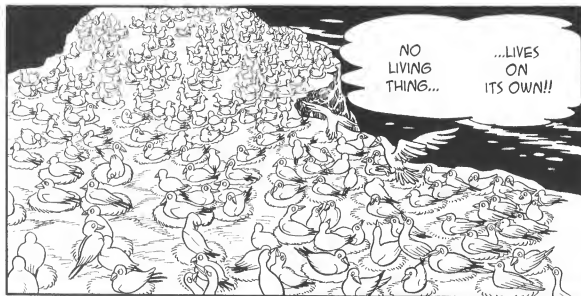








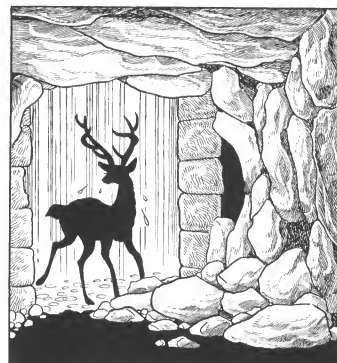
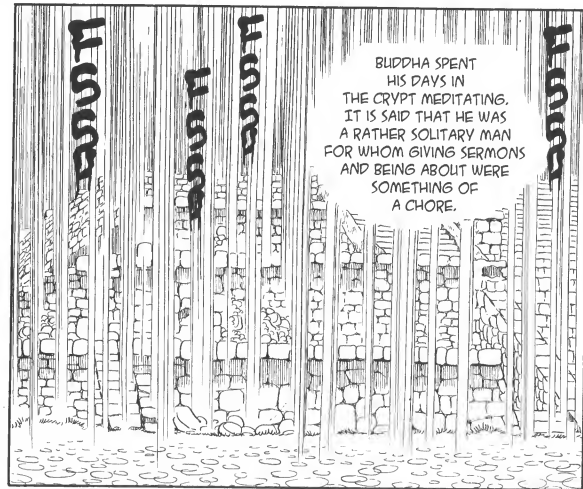
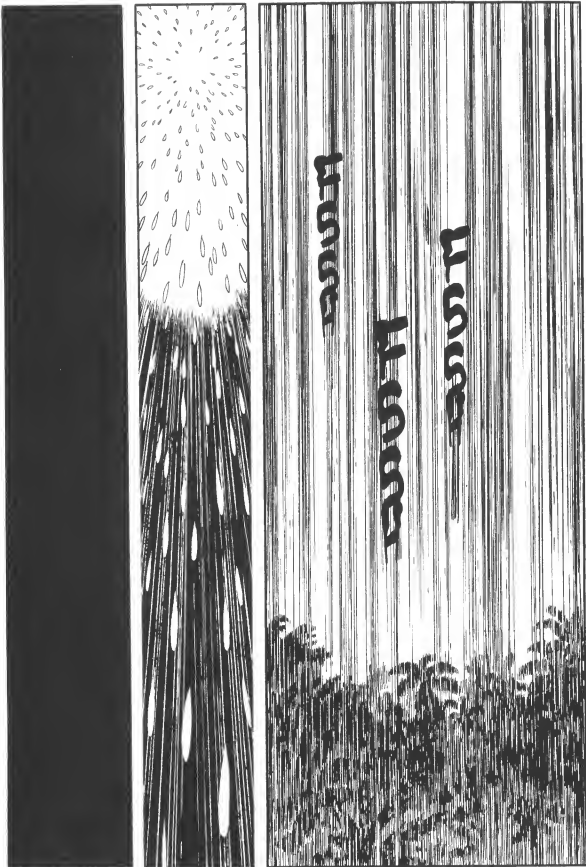
...YOU'RE DEPENDING
ON OTHER
LIVING THINGS
AND PEOPLE.

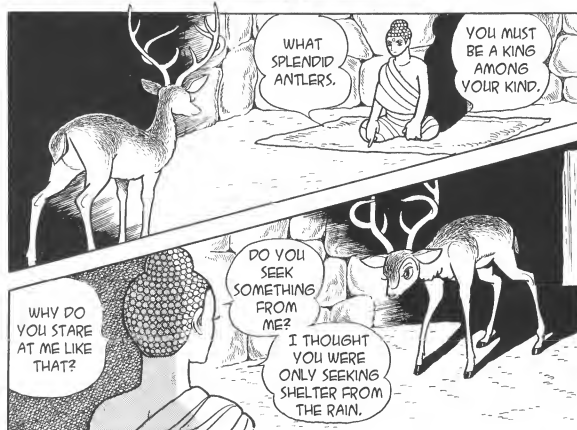




CHAPTER FIVE

DEER PARK







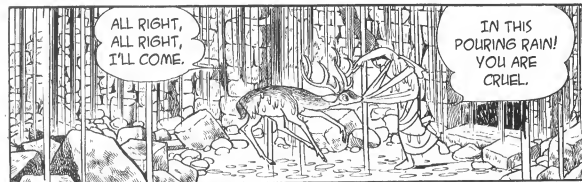
WHAT IS IT?



WHAT IS THIS...

THERE MUST BE SOME REASON.

YOU INSIST ON TAKING ME?

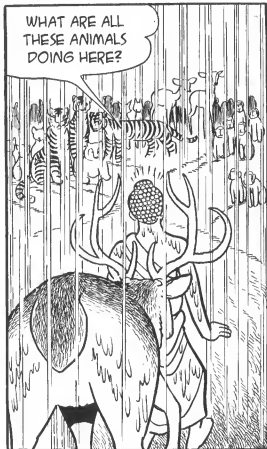


ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME.

IN THIS POURING RAIN! YOU ARE CRUEL.



HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?



WHAT ARE ALL THESE ANIMALS DOING HERE?

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WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?

WHAT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN?

DID THE DEER LEAD YOU HERE TOO?

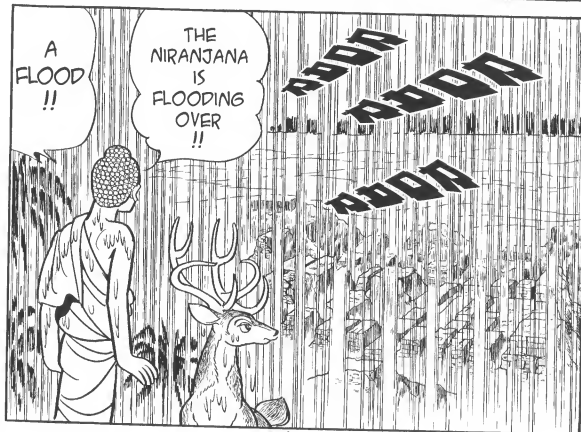


PLEASE EXPLAIN. WHAT IS GOING ON,

ENEMIES LIKE CATS AND MICE HUDDLED TOGETHER LIKE THIS?



HM? WHAT?



A FLOOD !!

THE NIRANJANA IS FLOODING OVER !!

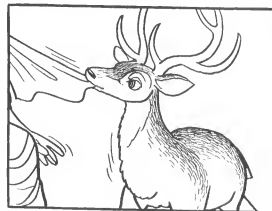
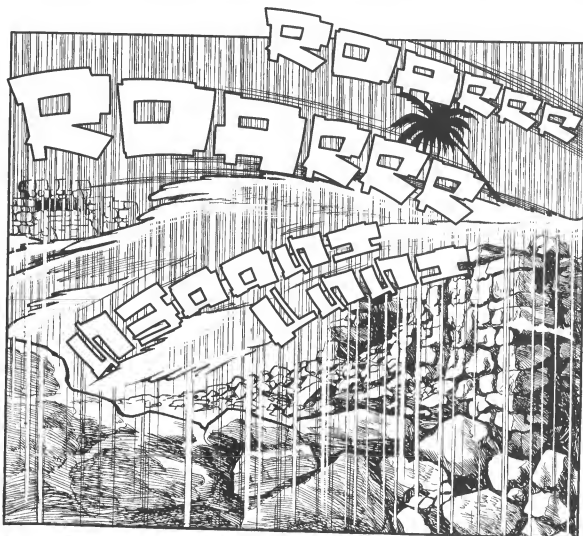
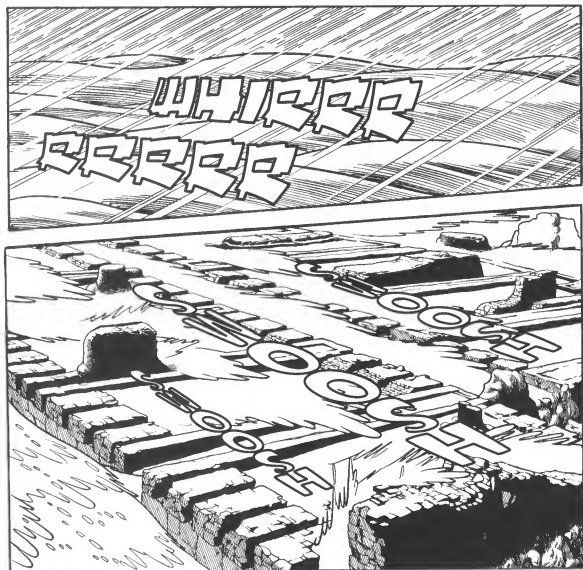
229



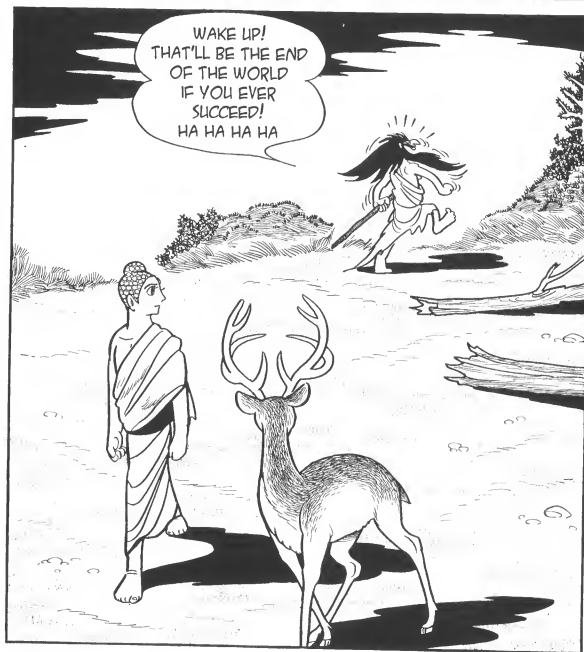
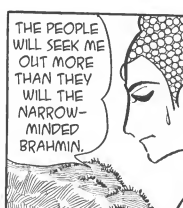
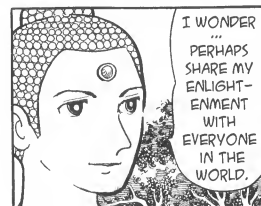
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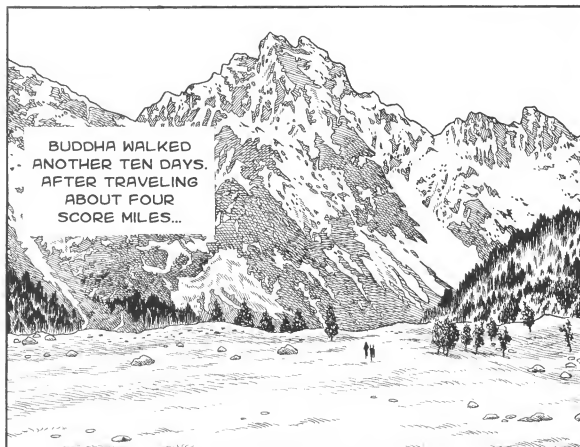


231

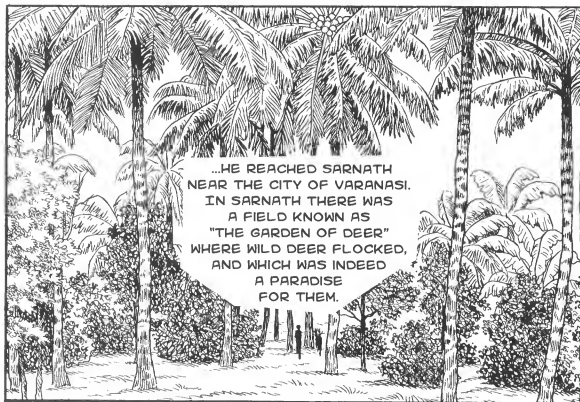








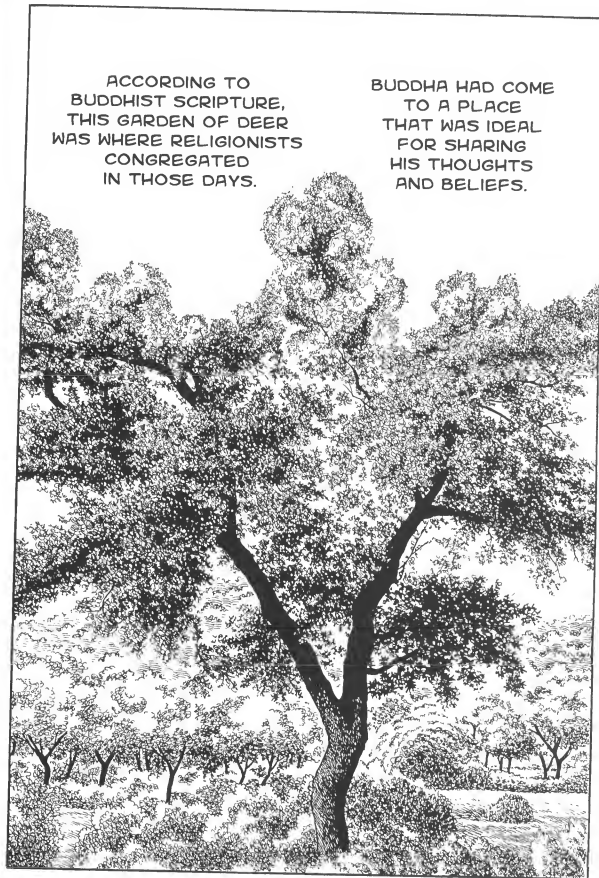
BUDDHA WALKED
ANOTHER TEN DAYS.
AFTER TRAVELING
ABOUT FOUR
SCORE MILES...

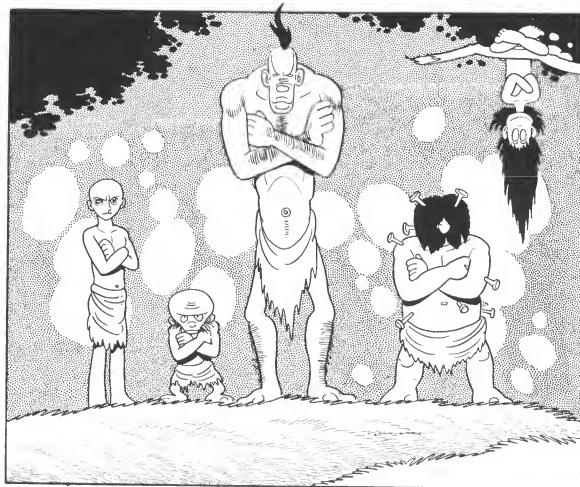
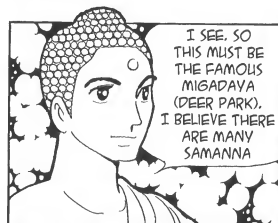
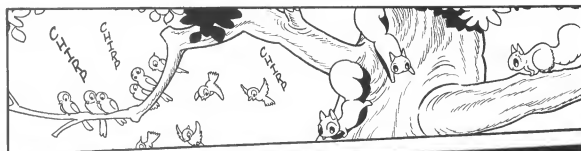


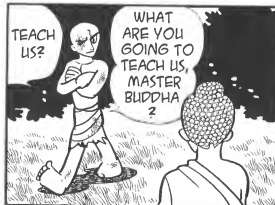
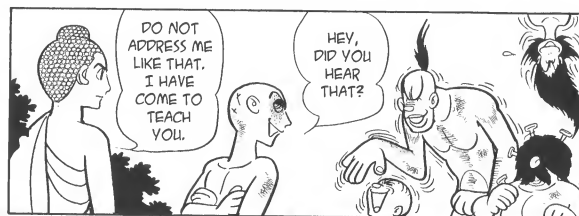
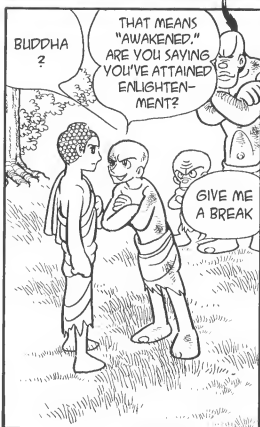
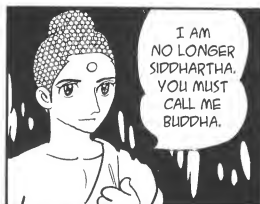
...HE REACHED SARNATH
NEAR THE CITY OF VARANASI.
IN SARNATH THERE WAS
A FIELD KNOWN AS
"THE GARDEN OF DEER"
WHERE WILD DEER FLOCKED,
AND WHICH WAS INDEED
A PARADISE
FOR THEM.

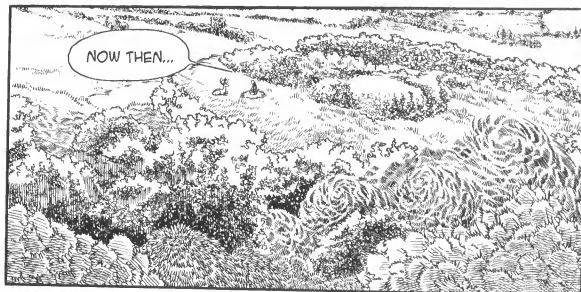
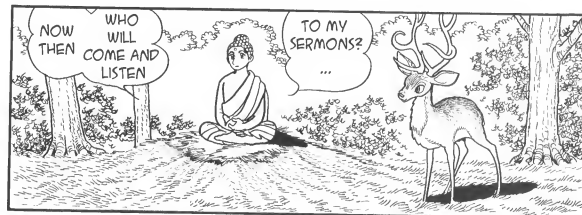
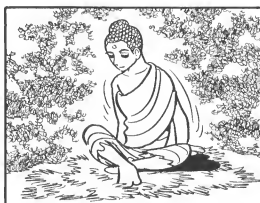
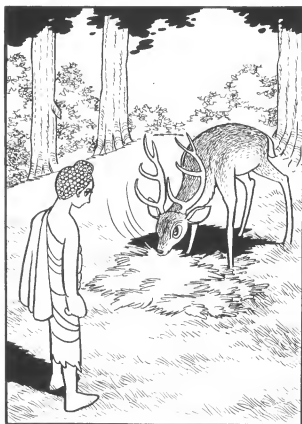
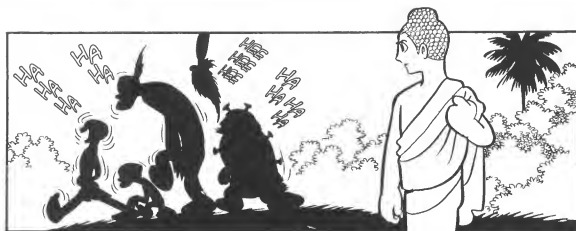
ACCORDING TO
BUDDHIST SCRIPTURE,
THIS GARDEN OF DEER
WAS WHERE RELIGIONISTS
CONGREGATED
IN THOSE DAYS.

BUDDHA HAD COME
TO A PLACE
THAT WAS IDEAL
FOR SHARING
HIS THOUGHTS
AND BELIEFS.





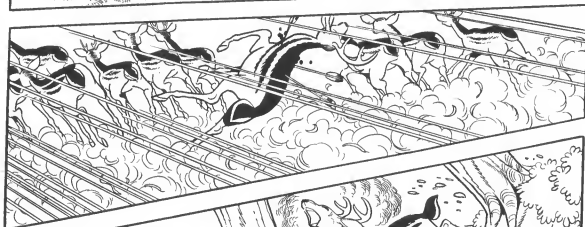
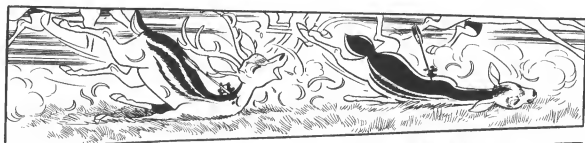
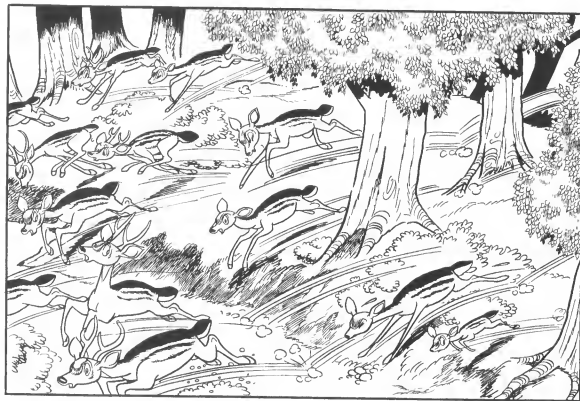


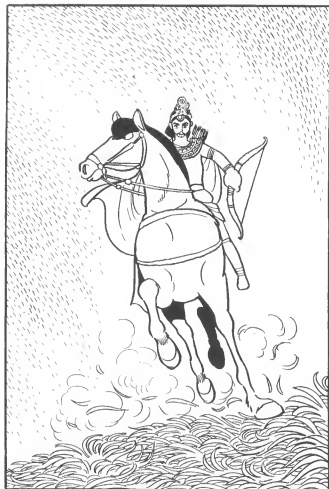


YOU DEER
HAVE TO LIVE IN
CONSTANT
FEAR OF DEATH.



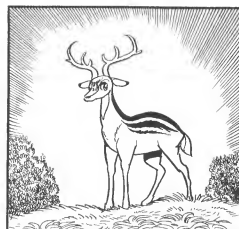
YOU RUN AWAY FROM
DEATH EVERY DAY,
BUT DEATH COMES
NO MATTER WHAT.
DON'T BE AFRAID
TO ACCEPT IT.





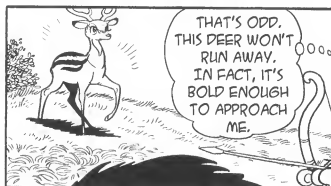
I AM
THE KING
OF THIS
FOREST'S
DEER!

YOU
LOOK LIKE
A KING
OF MEN.



WAIT!

PLEASE
STOP
HUNTING
US
DOWN
!!



THAT'S ODD.
THIS DEER WON'T
RUN AWAY.
IN FACT, IT'S
BOLD ENOUGH
TO APPROACH
ME.



HOW
BRILLIANT
ITS FUR,
SHINING IN
FIVE
COLORS...
THIS IS NO
COMMON
DEER.



IT SEEMS
SO DIGNIFIED...
PERHAPS IT IS
KING AMONG
ITS ILK.

THE DEER KING
IS TRYING
TO TELL ME
SOMETHING.



MY WORDS
CANNOT BE
UNDERSTOOD
BY HUMANS.

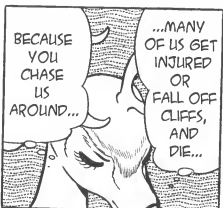
I ONLY WISH
OUR SOULS
COULD COM-
MUNICATE.
PLEASE, KING!
YOU ARE
SLAUGHTERING
US THROUGH
YOUR
RECKLESS
HUNTING.



WHY
DO YOU
HUNT?
IS IT
FOR
PLEASURE?

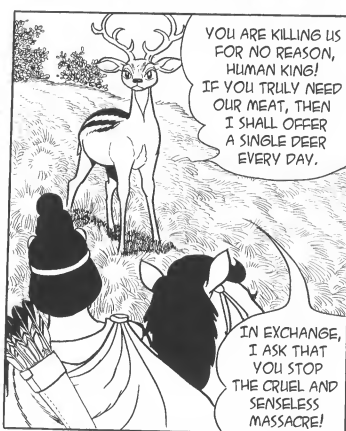
YOU
DON'T
NEED
SO MANY
OF US,

IF FOOD
IS WHAT
YOU
SEEK.



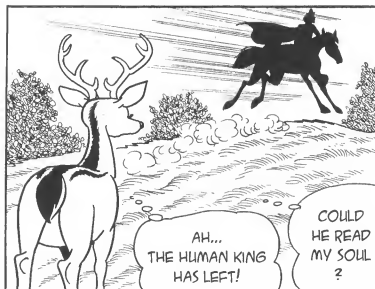
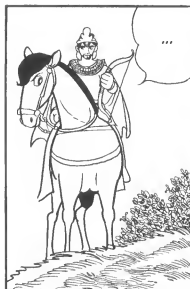
BECAUSE
YOU
CHASE
US
AROUND...

...MANY
OF US GET
INJURED
OR FALL OFF
CLIFFS,
AND DIE...



YOU ARE KILLING US
FOR NO REASON,
HUMAN KING!
IF YOU TRULY NEED
OUR MEAT, THEN
I SHALL OFFER
A SINGLE DEER
EVERY DAY.

IN EXCHANGE,
I ASK THAT
YOU STOP
THE CRUEL AND
SENSELESS
MASSACRE!



AH...
THE HUMAN KING
HAS LEFT!

COULD
HE READ
MY SOUL
?



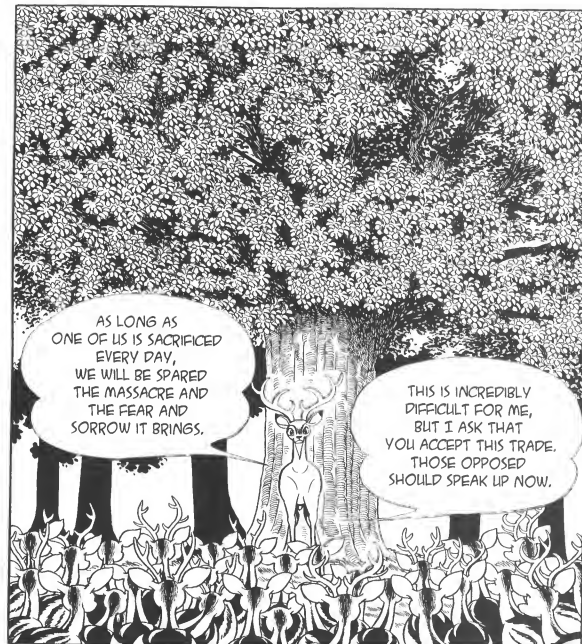
IF SO,
THERE WILL BE
PEACE IN
THE FOREST.

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MY
FELLOW
DEER...

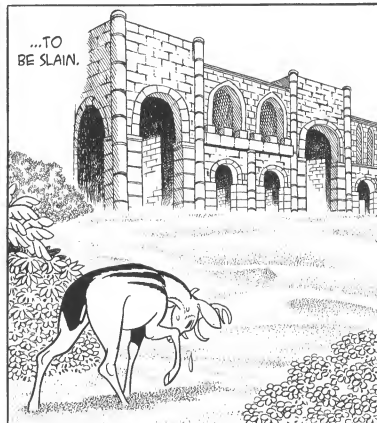
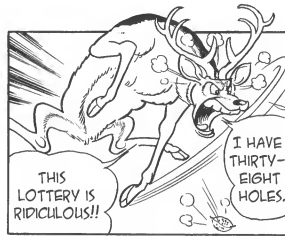
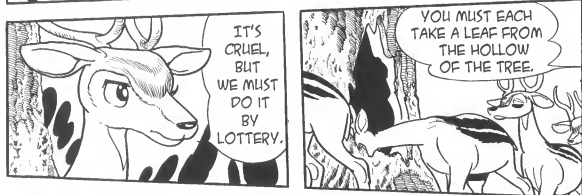
I MADE
A PROMISE
WITH
THE HUMANS!

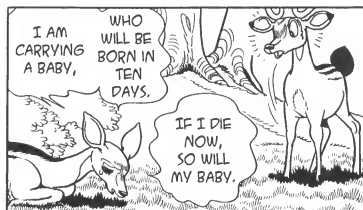
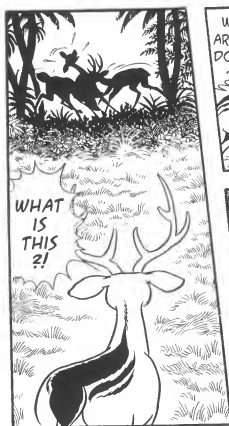
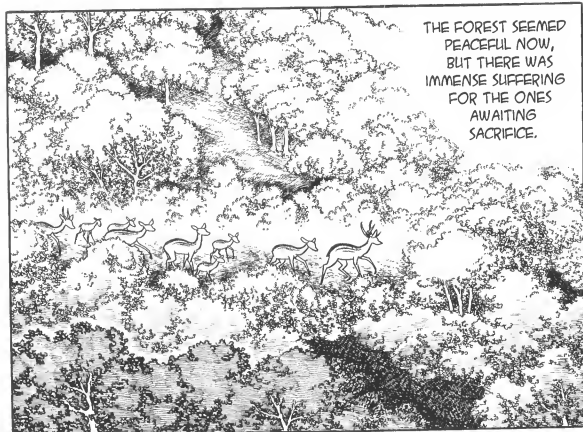


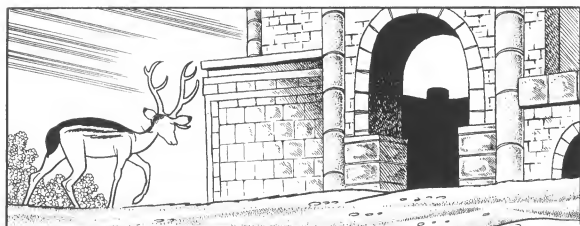
AS LONG AS
ONE OF US IS SACRIFICED
EVERY DAY,
WE WILL BE SPARED
THE MASSACRE AND
THE FEAR AND
SORROW IT BRINGS.

THIS IS INCREDIBLY
DIFFICULT FOR ME,
BUT I ASK THAT
YOU ACCEPT THIS TRADE.
THOSE OPPOSED
SHOULD SPEAK UP NOW.

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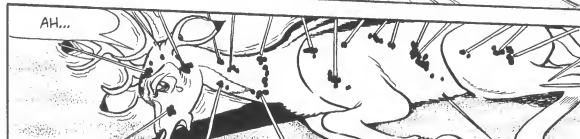
HEY,
THERE'S
TODAY'S
OFFERING.

IT'S
MY TURN
TO SHOOT.

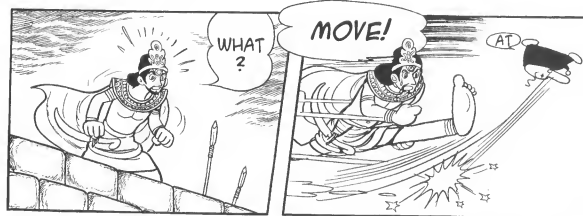
NO,
IT'S MINE.

NO, NO,
IT'S MINE!

ONE, TWO, THREE,
YAHH!



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DEER KING!
WHY DID YOU
SACRIFICE
YOURSELF
?

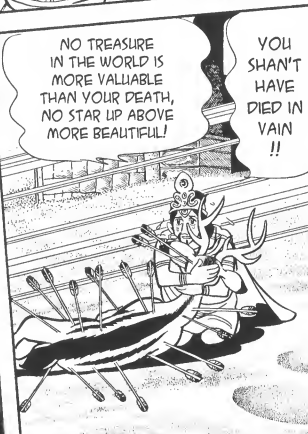
YOU ARE
KING.
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO
DO THIS!



WHAT
NOW?!



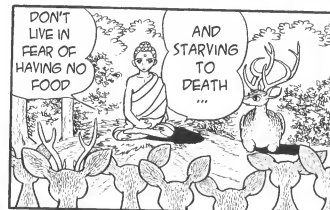
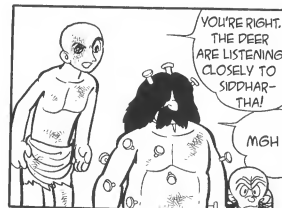
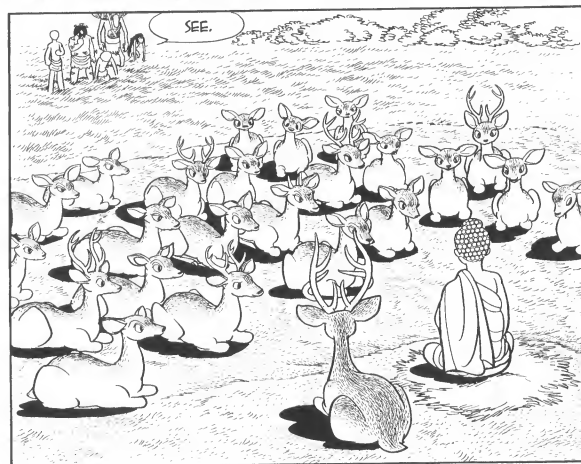
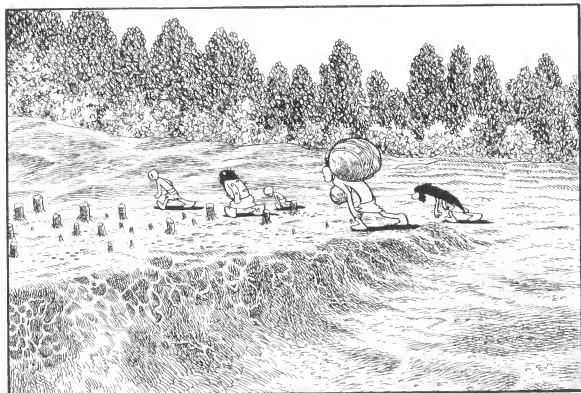
257

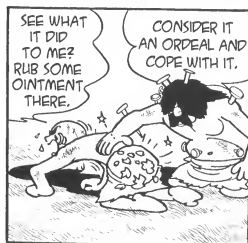
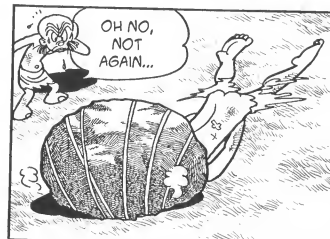
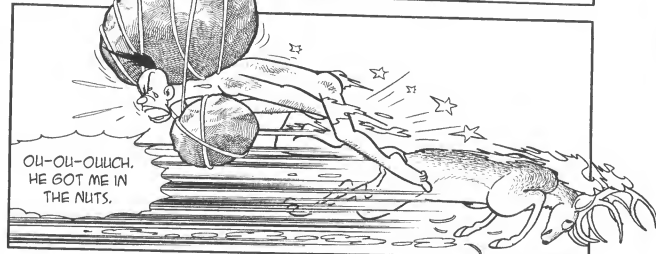
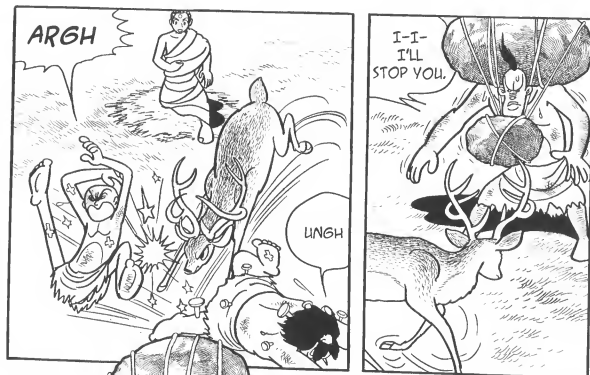
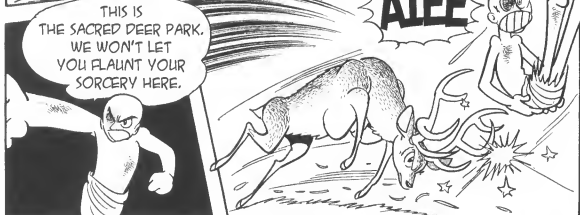
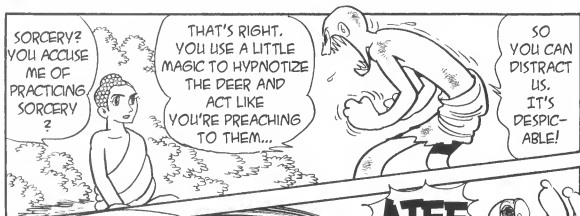


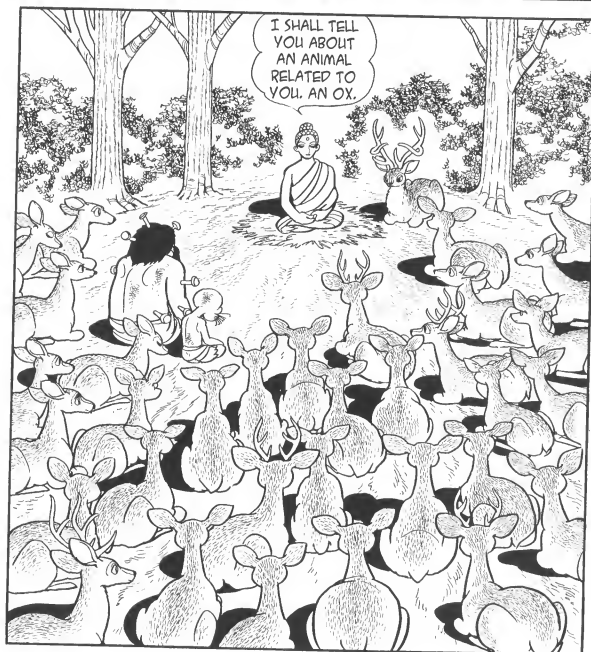
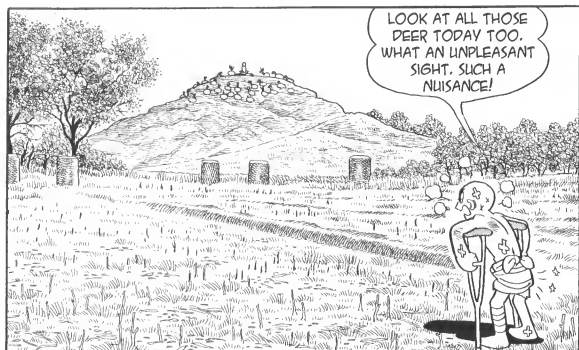
CHAPTER SIX

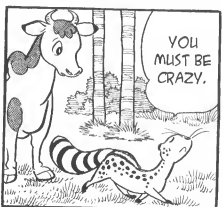
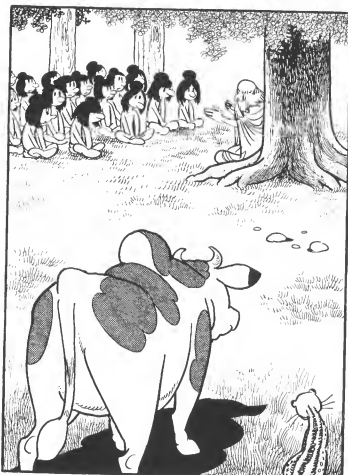
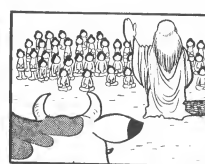
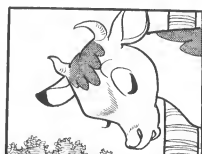
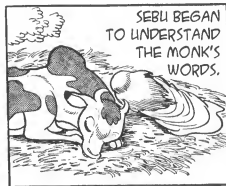
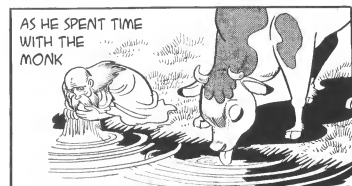
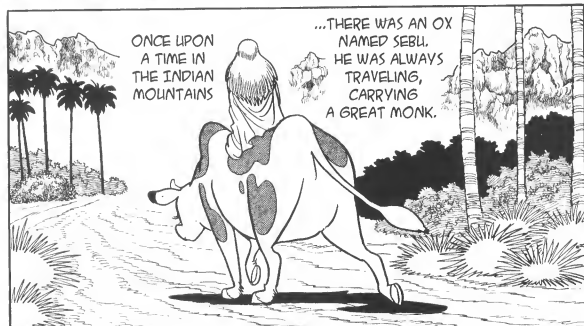
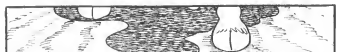
THE LEGEND OF SEBU THE OX

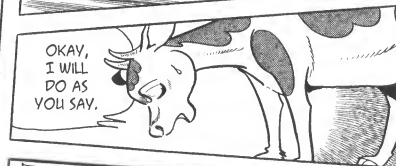
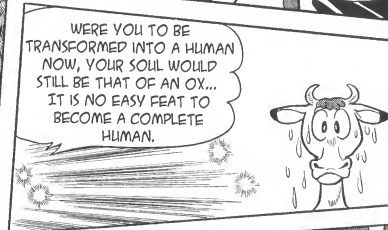
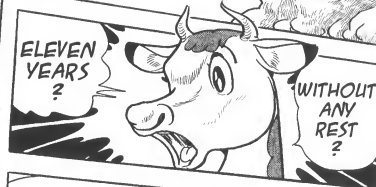
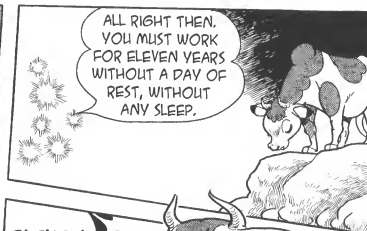
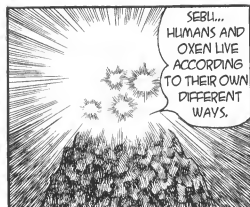
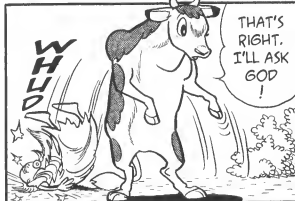
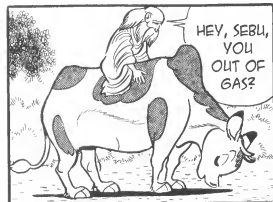
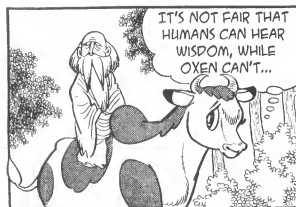


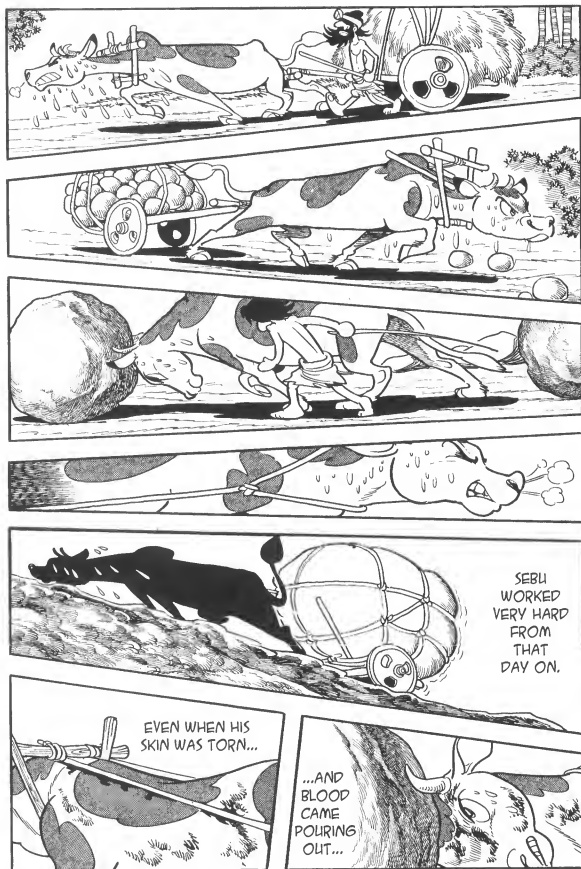


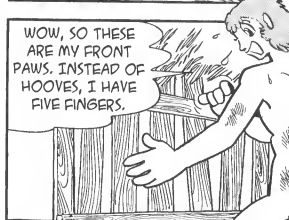
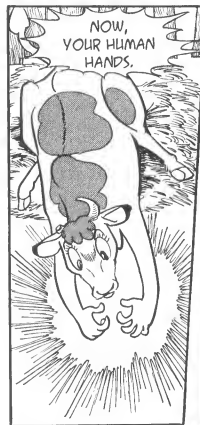
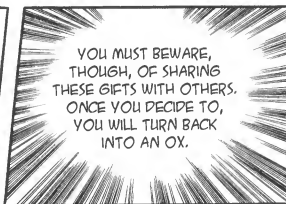
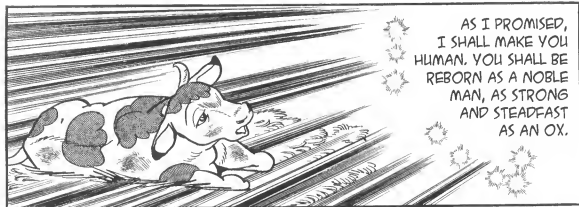


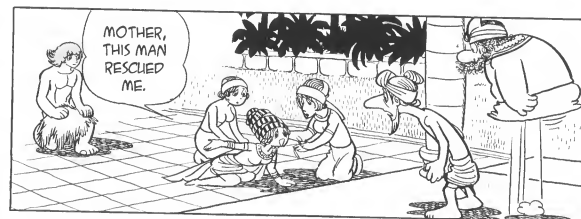
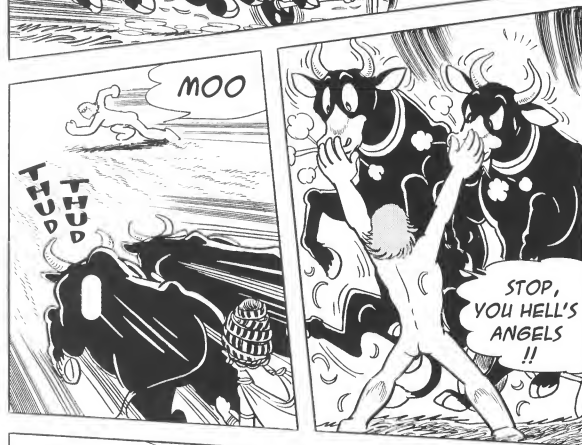










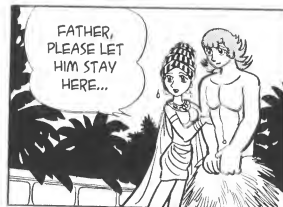


I WAS WITH A MONK.

MY NAME IS SEBU.



I HAVE NO-WHERE TO GO, SIR...



NO BIG DEAL. I DO WONDER WHY HE SEEMS TO BE CHEWING ON SOMETHING...



SEBU, WHO WAS NOW HUMAN, ENDED UP STAYING AT THE RICH MAN'S MANSION. SEBU HAD A CLEAR MEMORY OF WHAT THE MONK HAD PREACHED; THOSE WHO LISTENED TO HIM NOW WERE VERY MOVED IN TURN.

AND THUS SEBU COMMANDED THEIR RESPECT. HE LIVED FREELY, ADMIRING BY EVERYONE, RELISHING EVERY DAY.



AS THE YEARS PASSED,



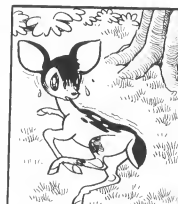
YES, SIR.



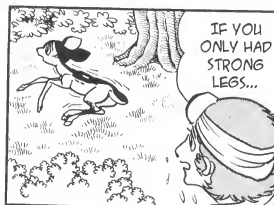
I'M FEELING RESTLESS... I'LL GO TAKE A WALK.



HEY, A BABY DOE WITH A BROKEN LEG. IT MUST HAVE BEEN HUNTED DOWN.



I'D LOVE TO HELP.

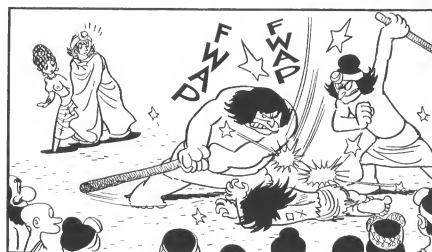
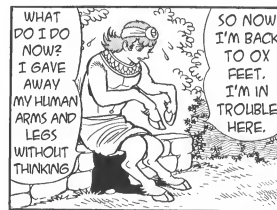
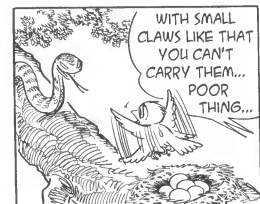
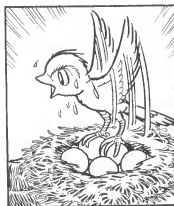
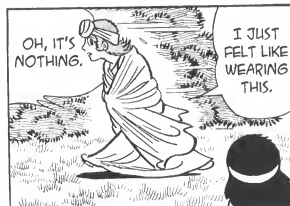


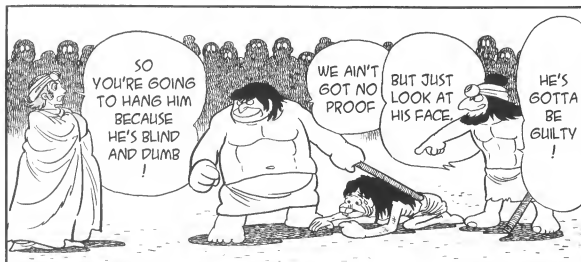
IF YOU ONLY HAD STRONG LEGS...



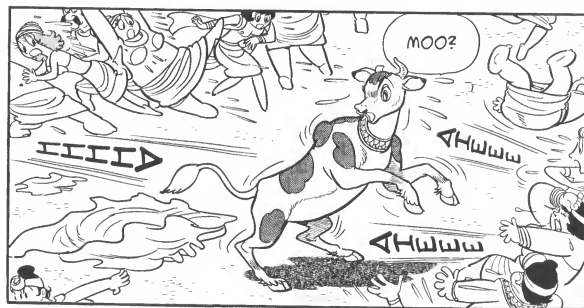
THAT'S RIGHT!

I'LL GIVE YOU MY LEGS. GOD GAVE ME THESE HUMAN LEGS!

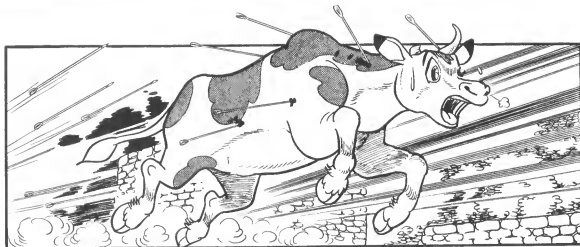




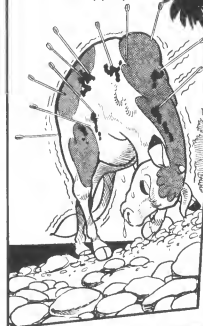
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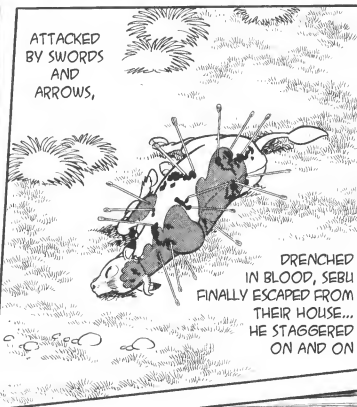
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ONCE THEY SAW SEBU
TURN INTO AN OX,
THE RICH MAN'S
FAMILY SCREAMED
IN HORROR.



ATTACKED
BY SWORDS
AND
ARROWS,



DRENCHED
IN BLOOD, SEBU
FINALLY ESCAPED FROM
THEIR HOUSE...
HE STAGGERED
ON AND ON

...AND
FINALLY
COLLAPSED.

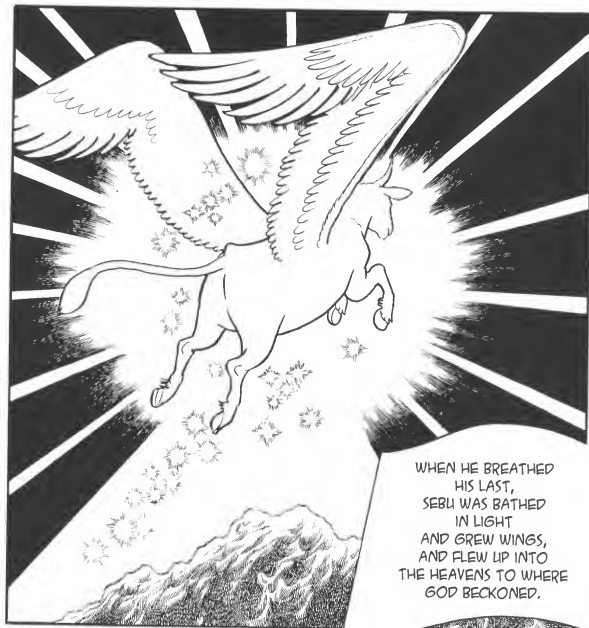
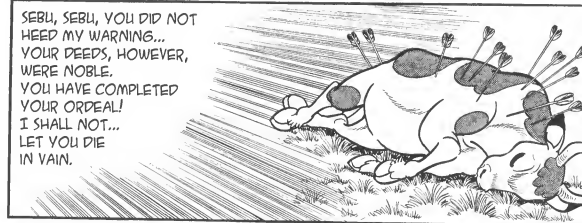


AS DEATH CAME
TO HIM, SEBU HEARD
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC
DESCEND FROM
UP ABOVE.



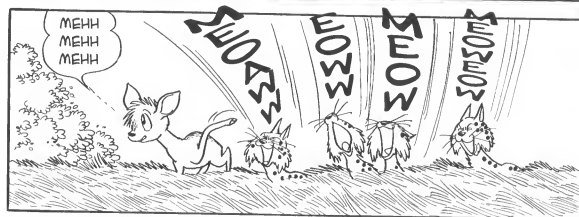
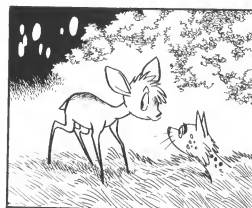
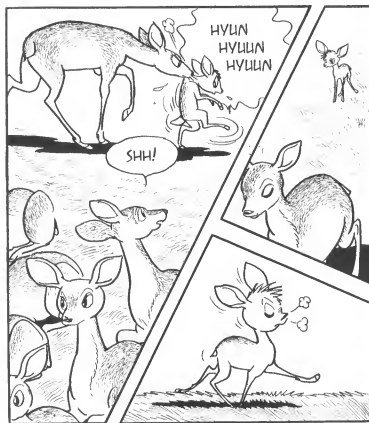
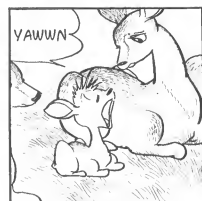
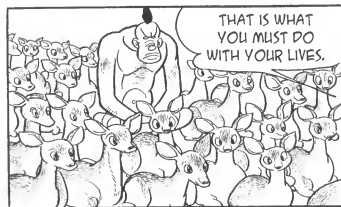
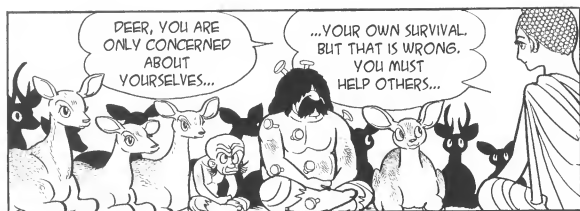
284

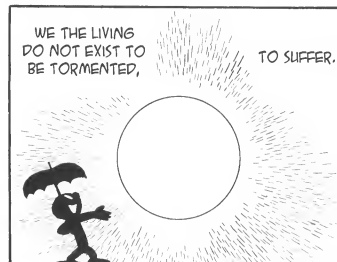
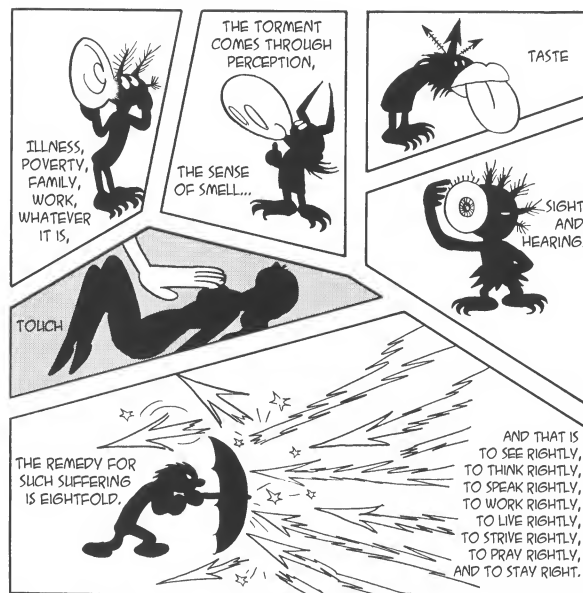
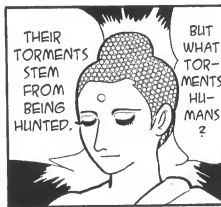
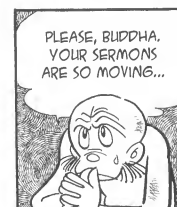
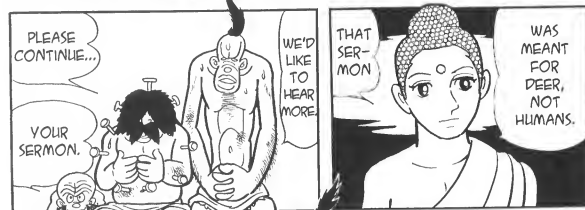
SEBU, SEBU, YOU DID NOT
HEED MY WARNING...
YOUR DEEDS, HOWEVER,
WERE NOBLE.
YOU HAVE COMPLETED
YOUR ORDEAL!
I SHALL NOT...
LET YOU DIE
IN VAIN.

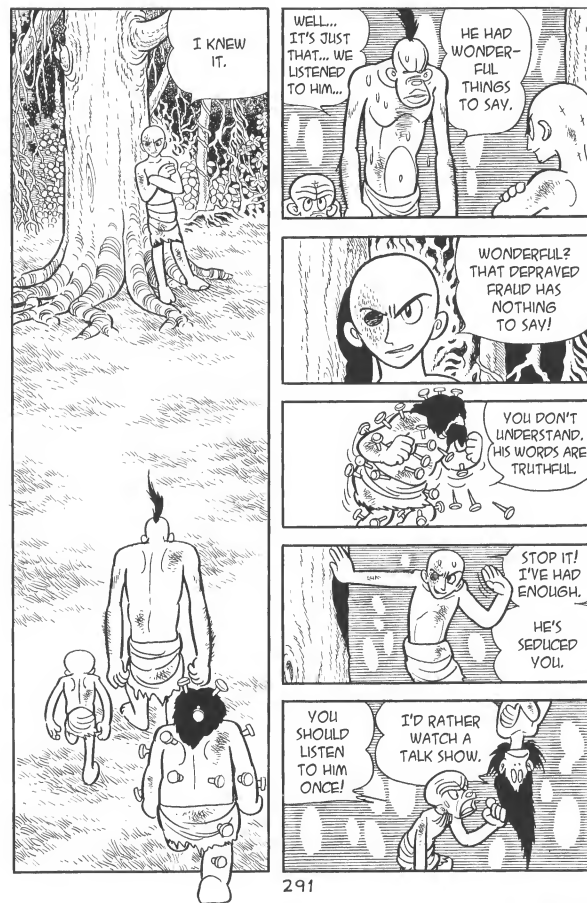
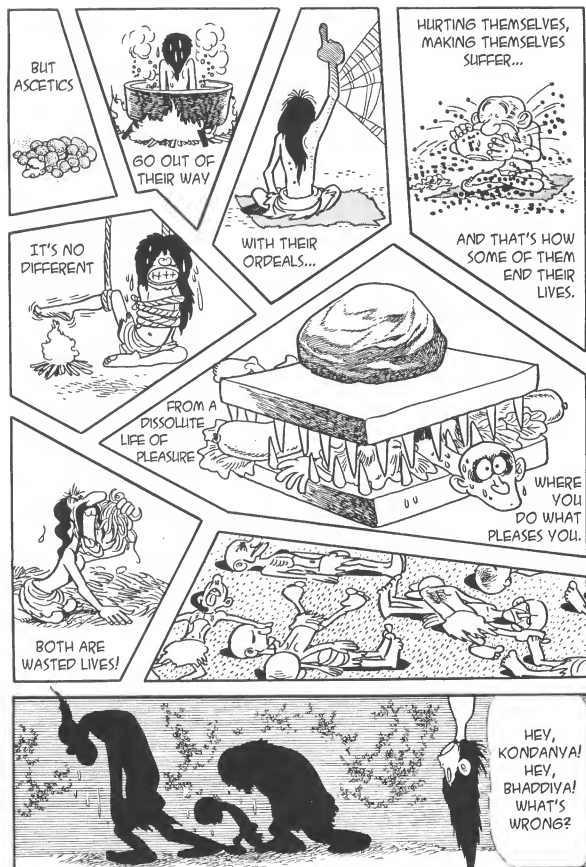


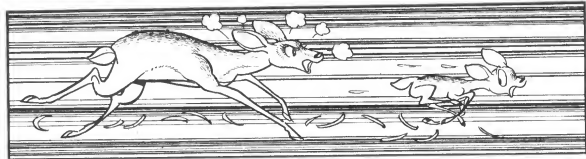
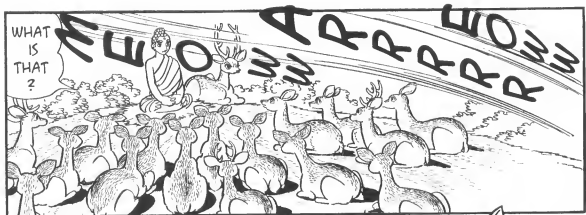
WHEN HE BREATHED
HIS LAST,
SEBU WAS BATHED
IN LIGHT
AND GREW WINGS,
AND FLEW UP INTO
THE HEAVENS TO WHERE
GOD BECKONED.

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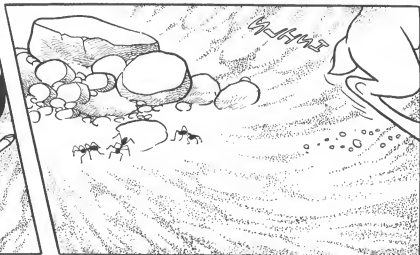
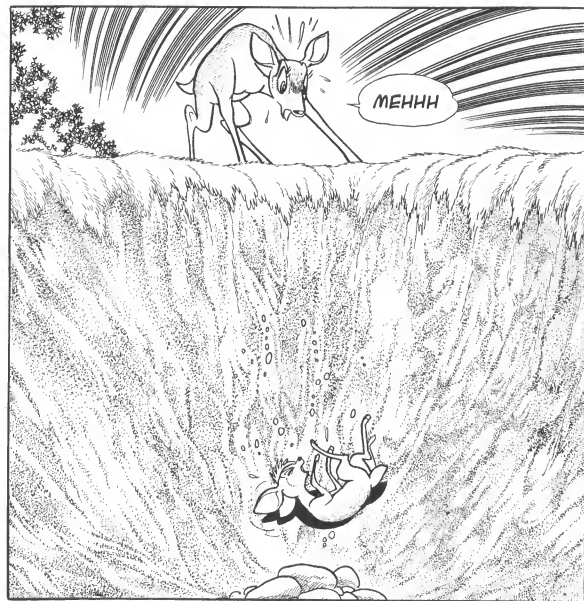








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MEHHHH



WHAT IS IT ?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?



THE FAWN'S RIGHT ABOVE AN ANT NEST !!



HE'S FINISHED. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN SAVE HIM. A DEER CAN'T CLIMB THAT SLOPE.



MAYBE, BUT I CAN RESCUE HIM.

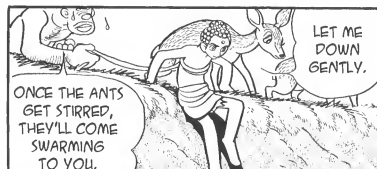
YOU'LL BE IN DANGER TOO IF THE ANTS GET TO YOU.

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THOSE ANTS CAN DEVOUR ANIMALS WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES.

BUT I MUST SAVE HIM! THE KING DEER WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAVE ME.

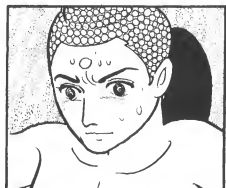


ONCE THE ANTS GET STIRRED, THEY'LL COME SWARMING TO YOU.

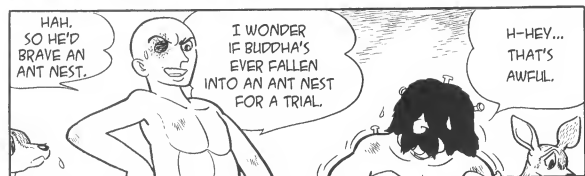
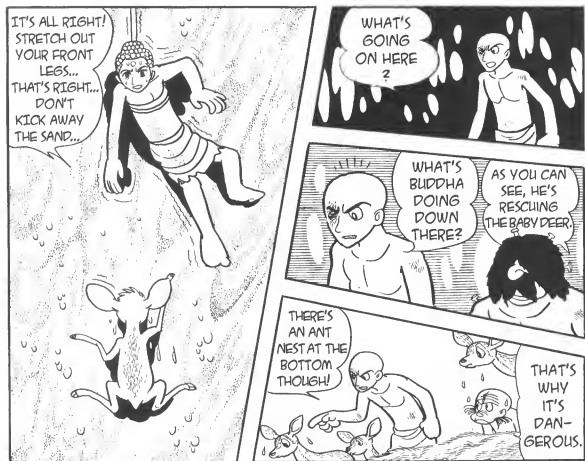
LET ME DOWN GENTLY.

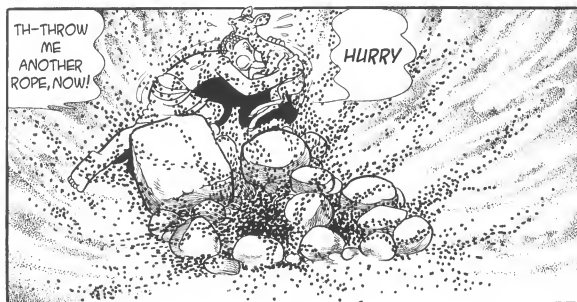
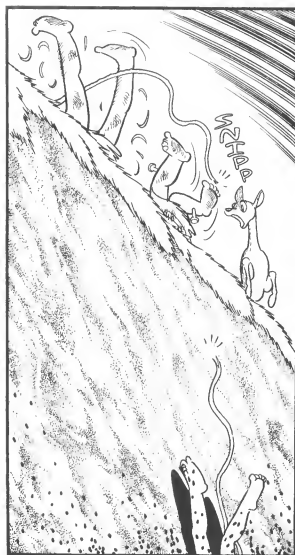


MEHHH

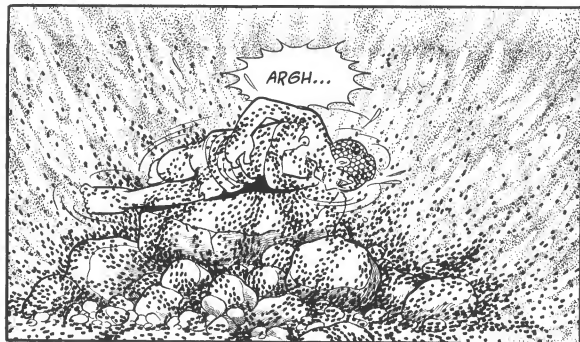
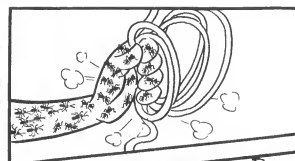
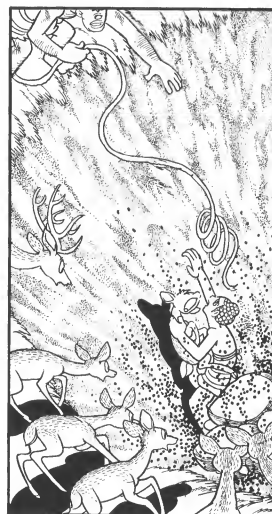


295

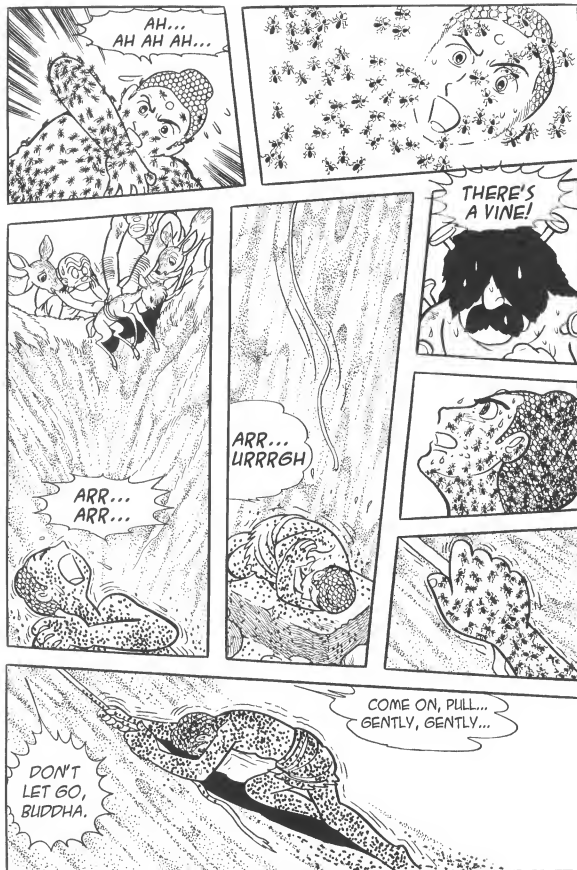


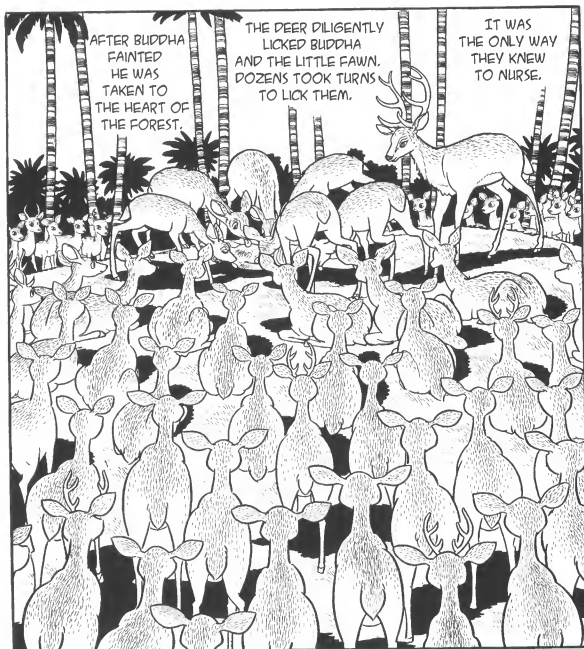


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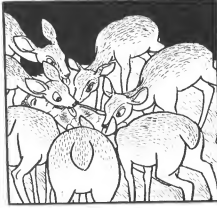
AFTER BUDDHA
FAINTED
HE WAS
TAKEN TO
THE HEART OF
THE FOREST.

THE DEER DILIGENTLY
LICKED BUDDHA
AND THE LITTLE FAWN.
DOZENS TOOK TURNS
TO LICK THEM.

IT WAS
THE ONLY WAY
THEY KNEW
TO NURSE.



MEH MEH
MEH MEH
MEH MEH



THESE DEER
HAVE BEEN TAKING
TURNS LICKING
BUDDHA'S
WOUNDS.

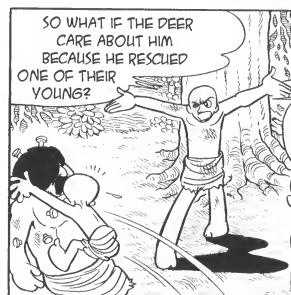
IT'S
ALREADY
BEEN
THREE DAYS.

HAVE YOU EVER
SEEN BEASTS
CARE SO MUCH FOR
A HUMAN
?

LICKING THOSE
ANT BITES
WON'T DO
ANYTHING.



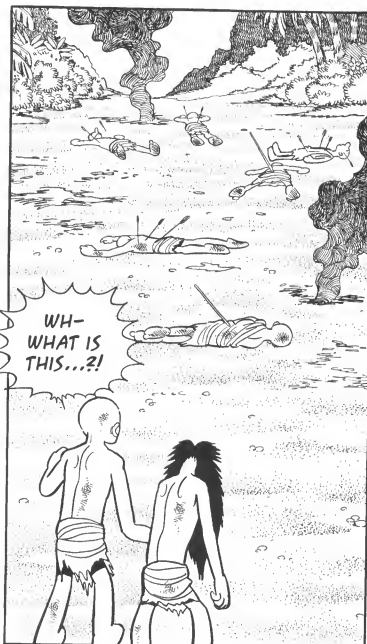
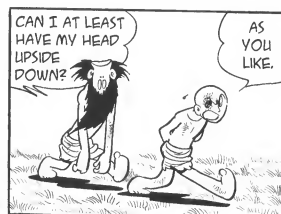
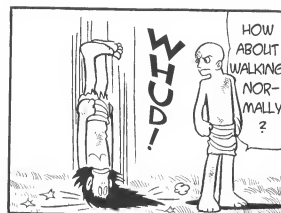
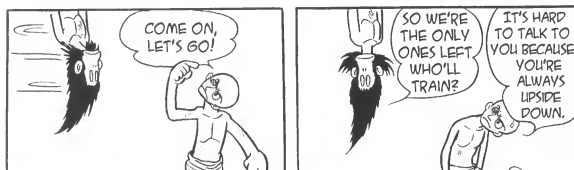
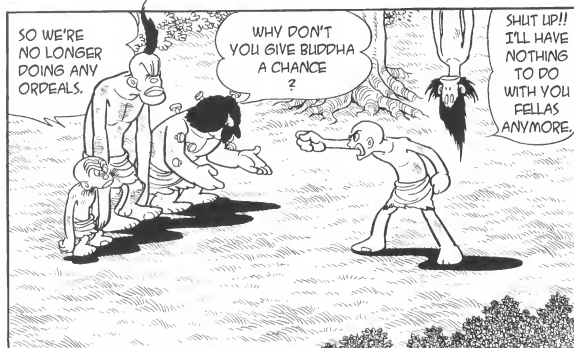
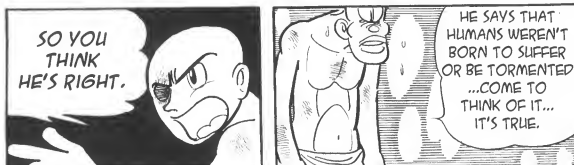
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU
THREE?!



SO WHAT IF THE DEER
CARE ABOUT HIM
BECAUSE HE RESCUED
ONE OF THEIR
YOUNG?

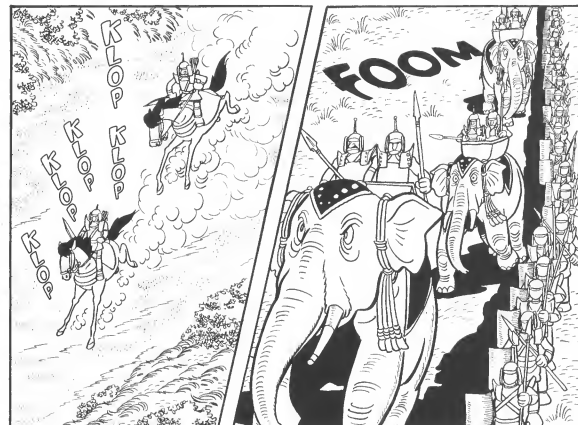
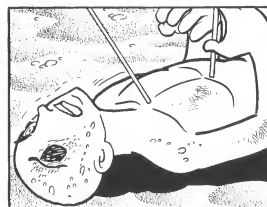
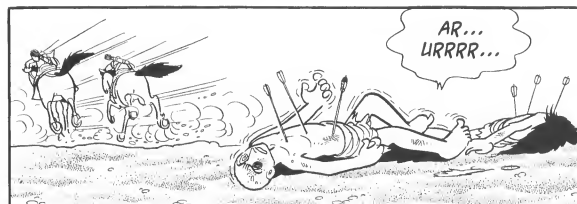
WHY DO YOU
CARE ABOUT
HIM SO MUCH
?

IT'S NONE OF
OUR BUSINESS.
WE SHOULD
CONTINUE
OUR ORDEALS!!

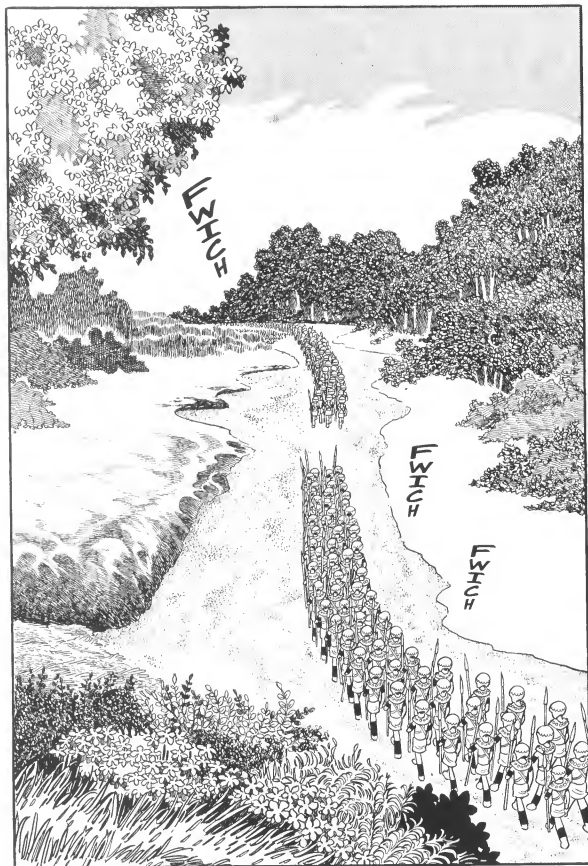




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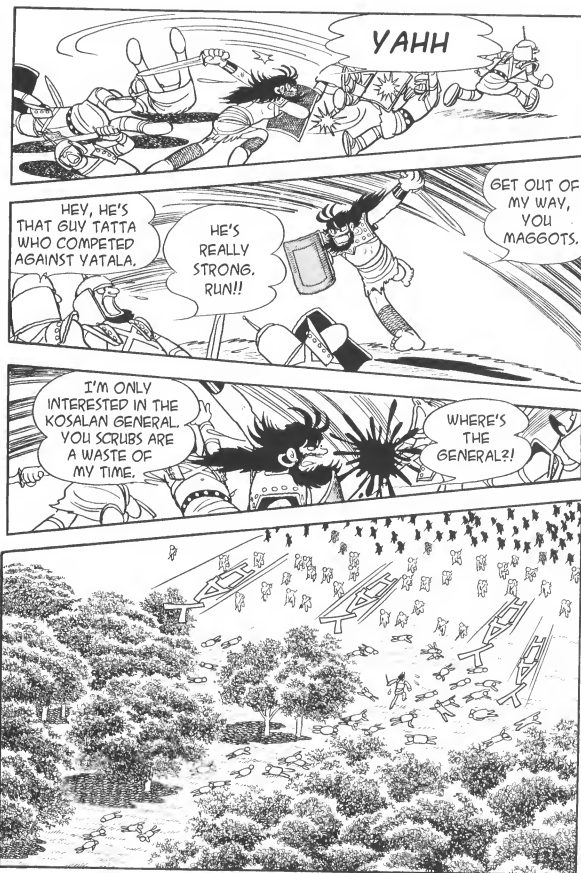
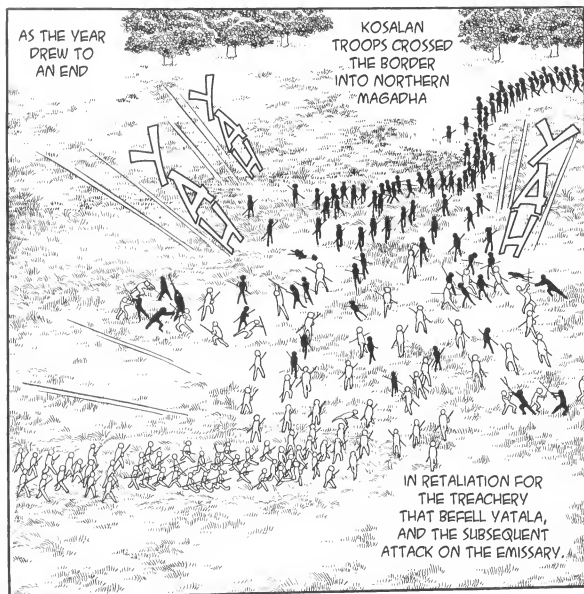


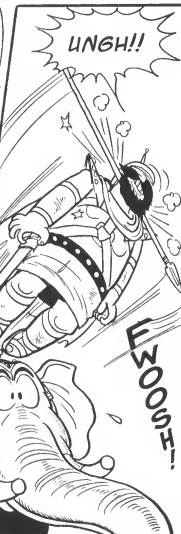
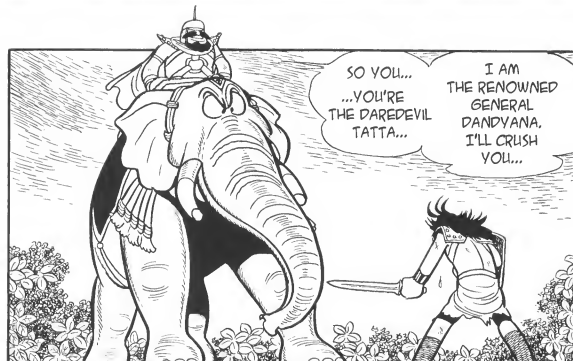
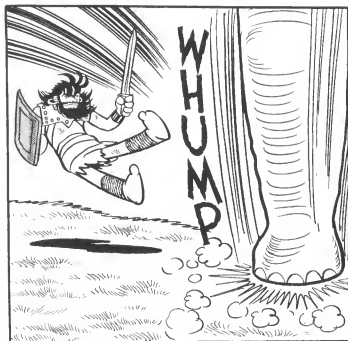
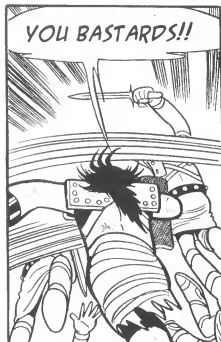
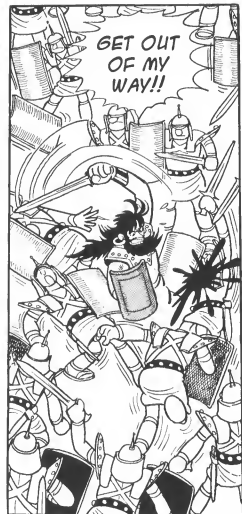
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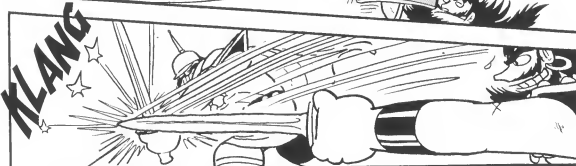
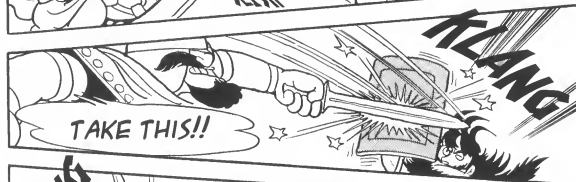
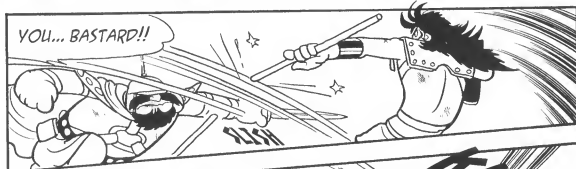
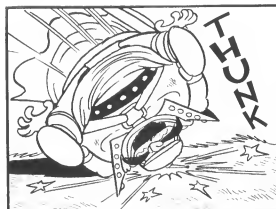


CHAPTER SEVEN

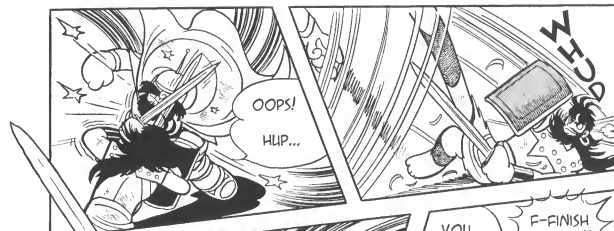
FOOL'S WAY



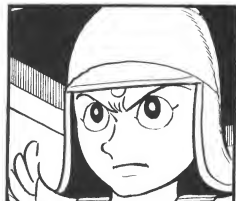
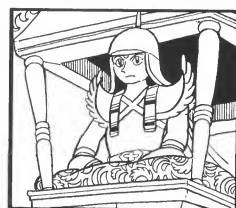
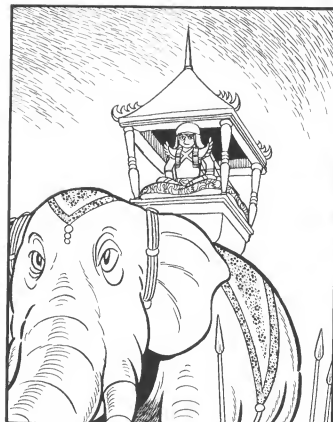
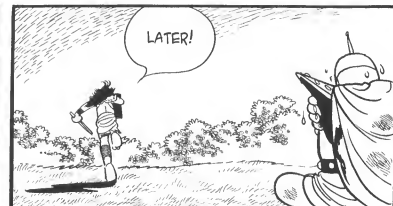
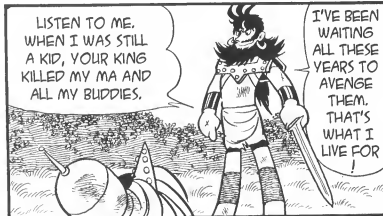
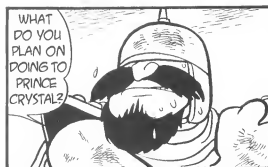


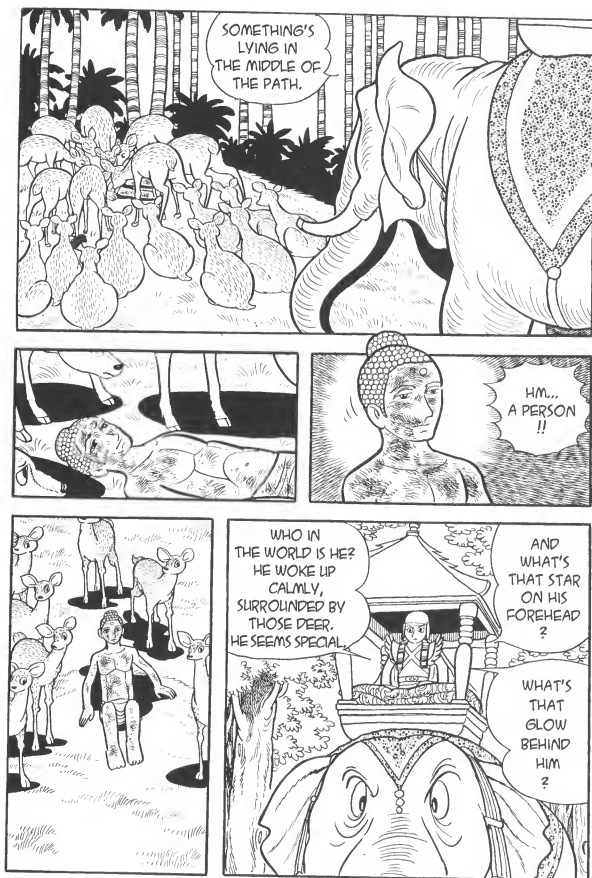
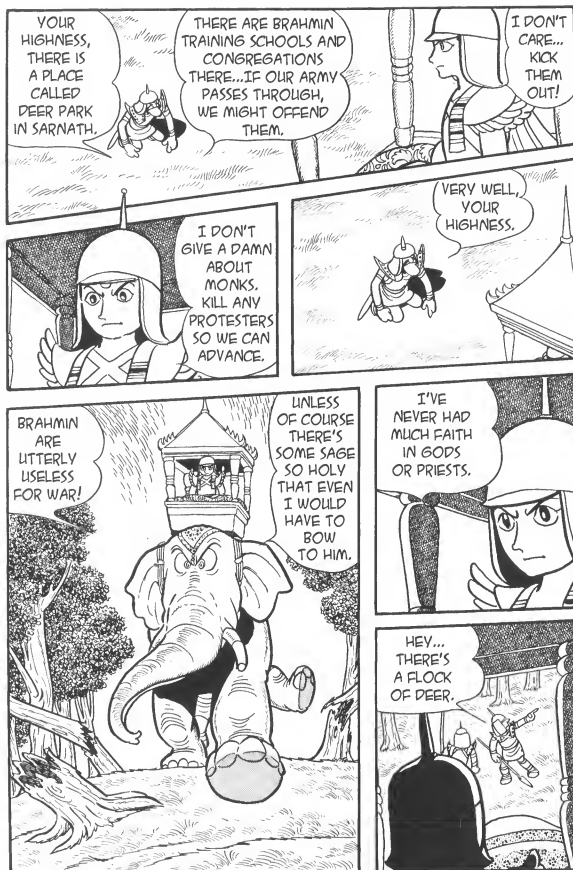


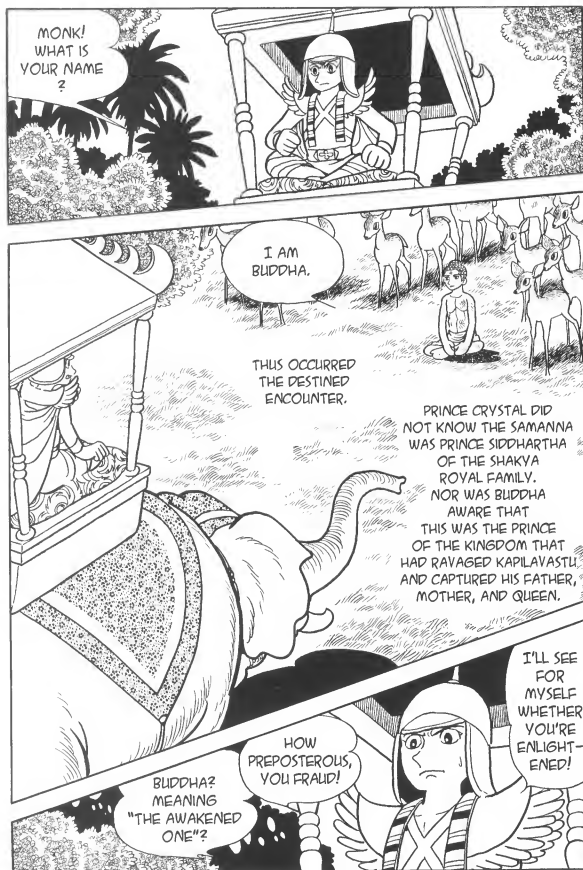
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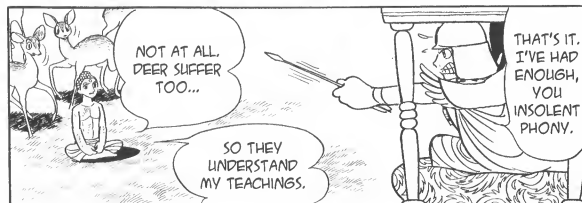
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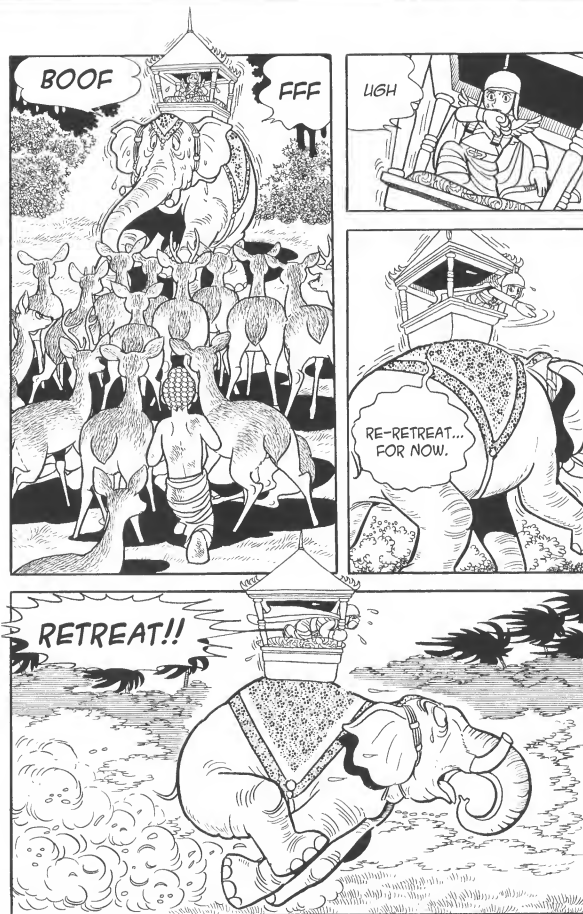
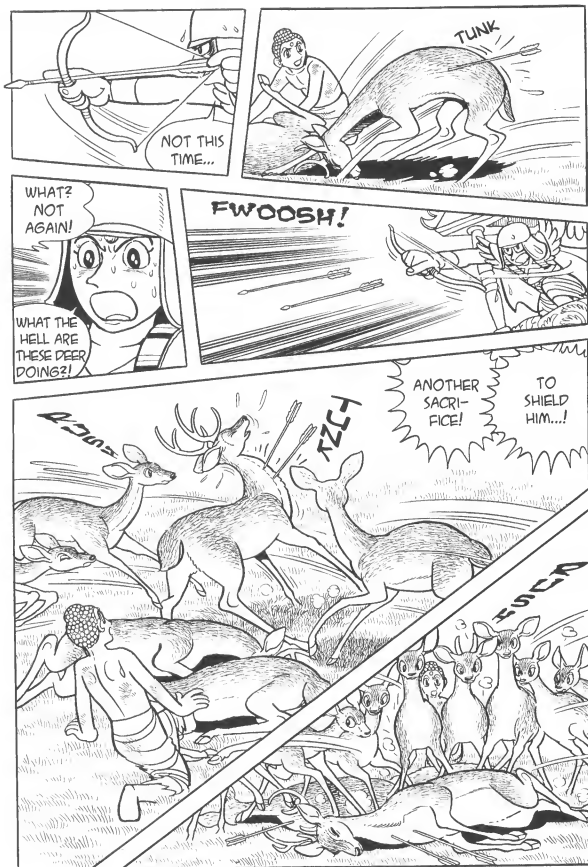


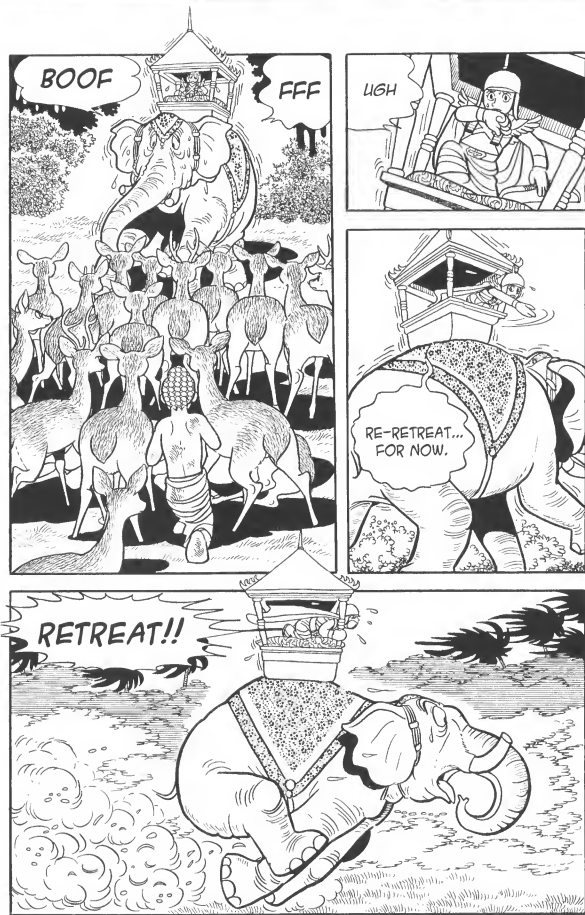
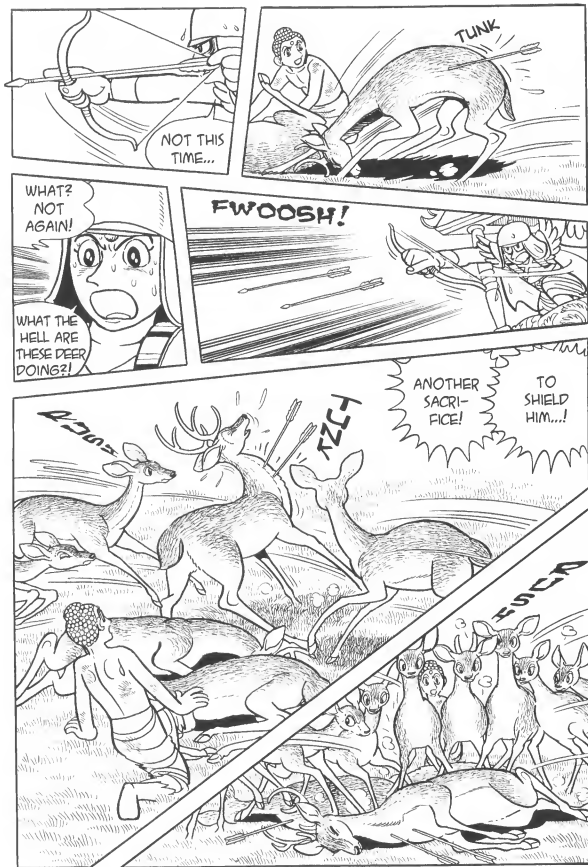










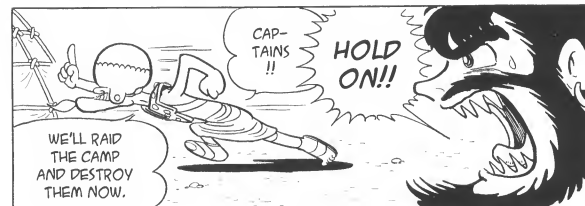
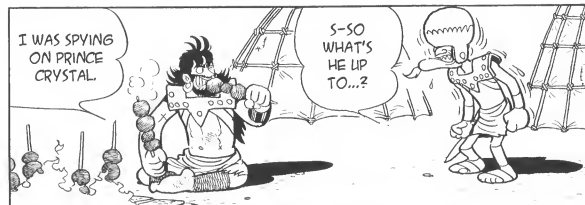
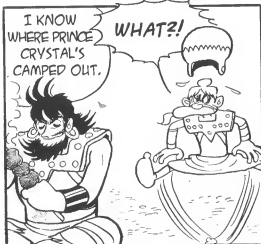
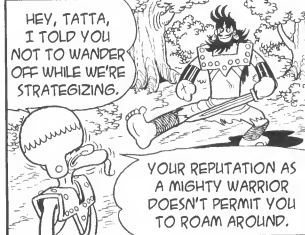
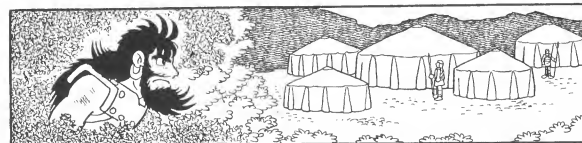
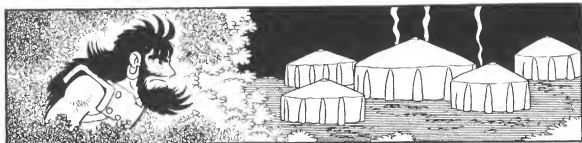


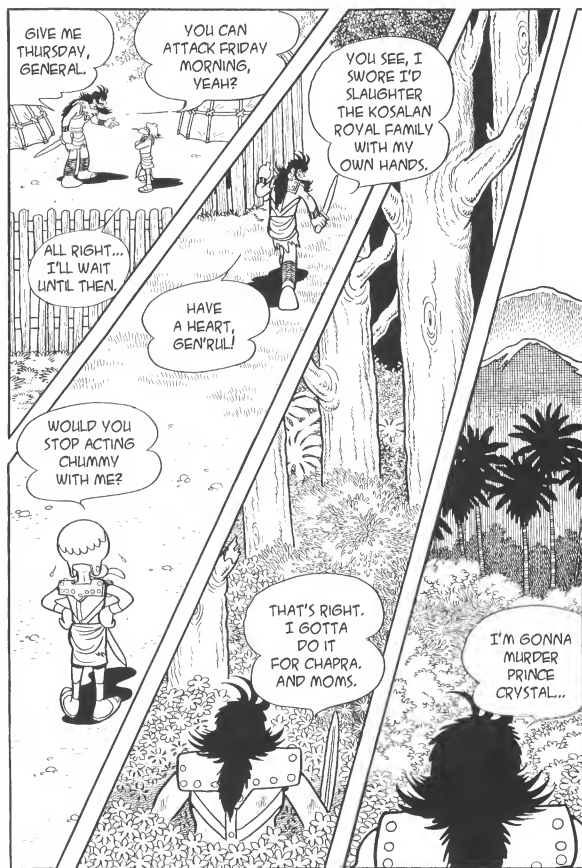
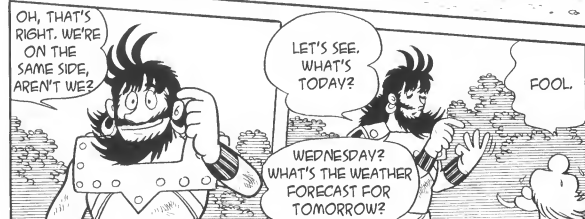
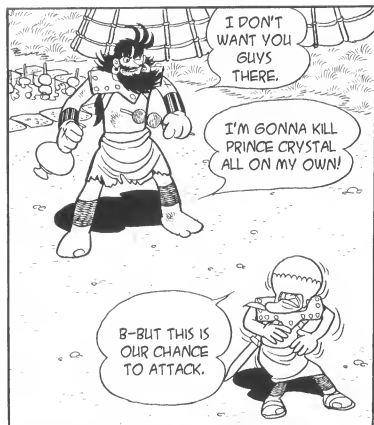


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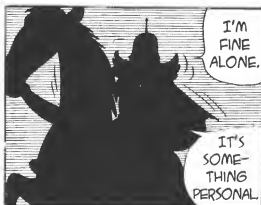
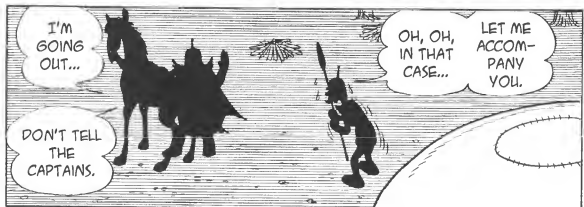
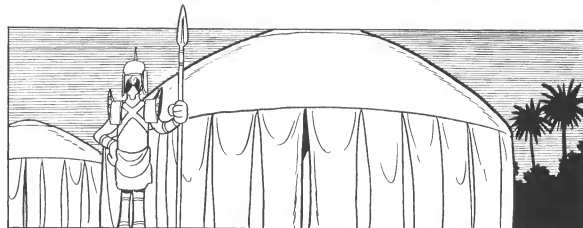
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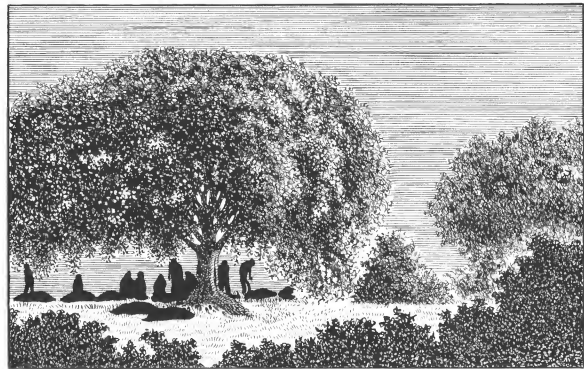
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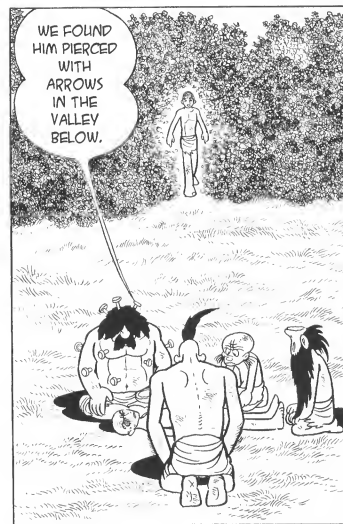
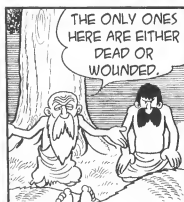
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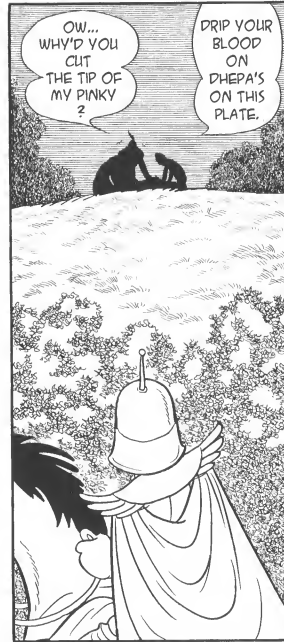
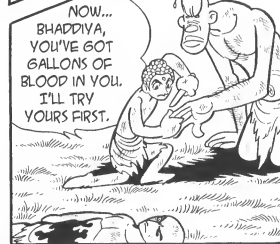
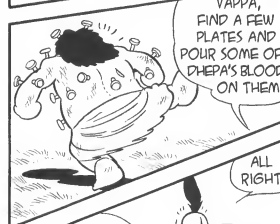
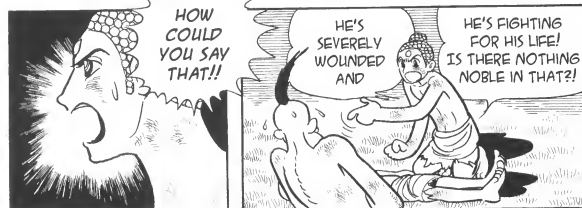


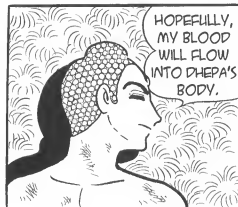
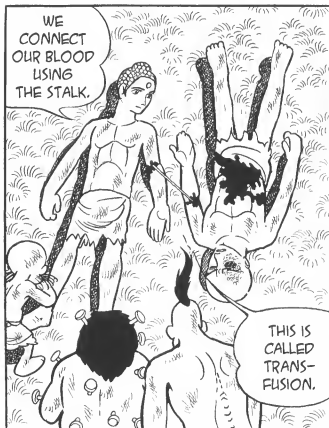
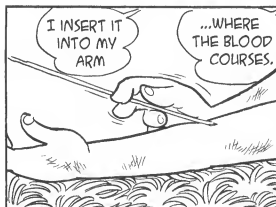
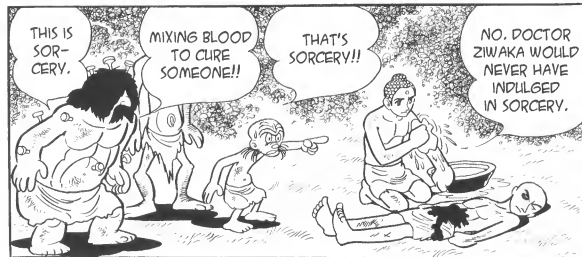
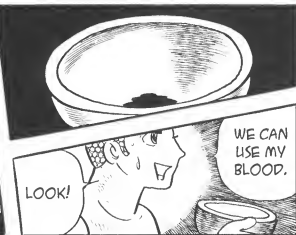
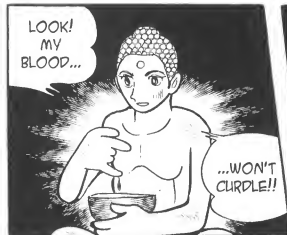
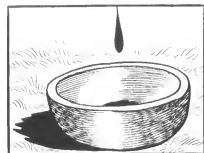
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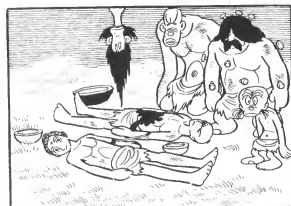


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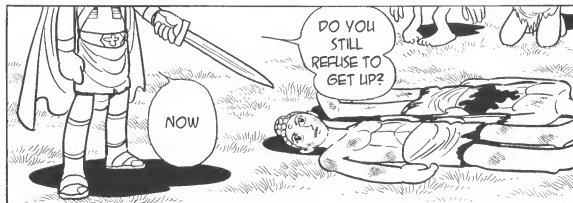
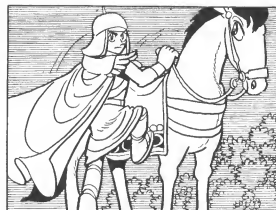


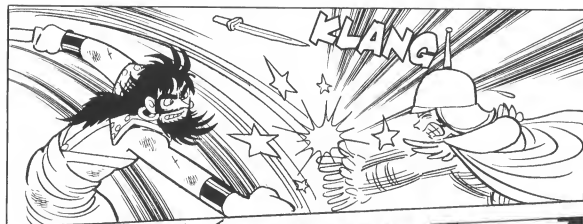
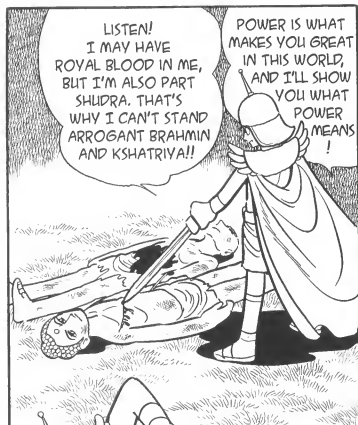


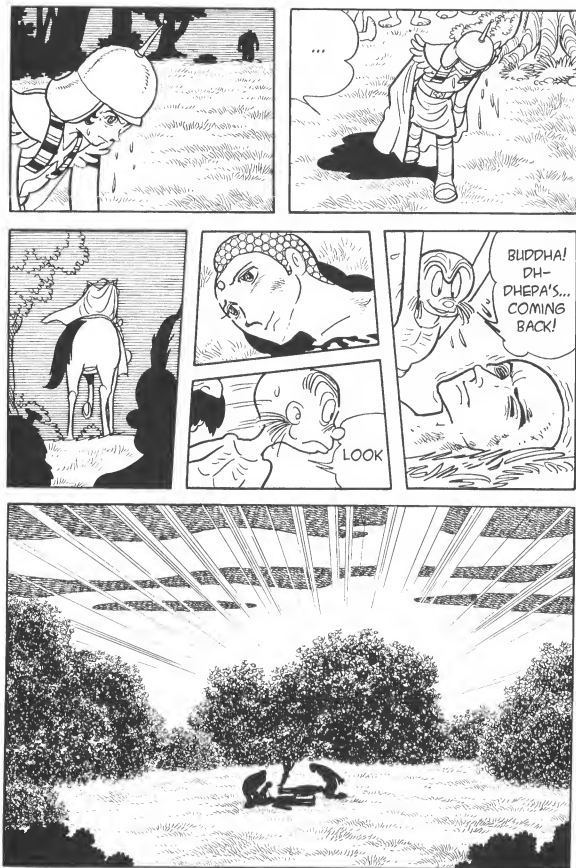
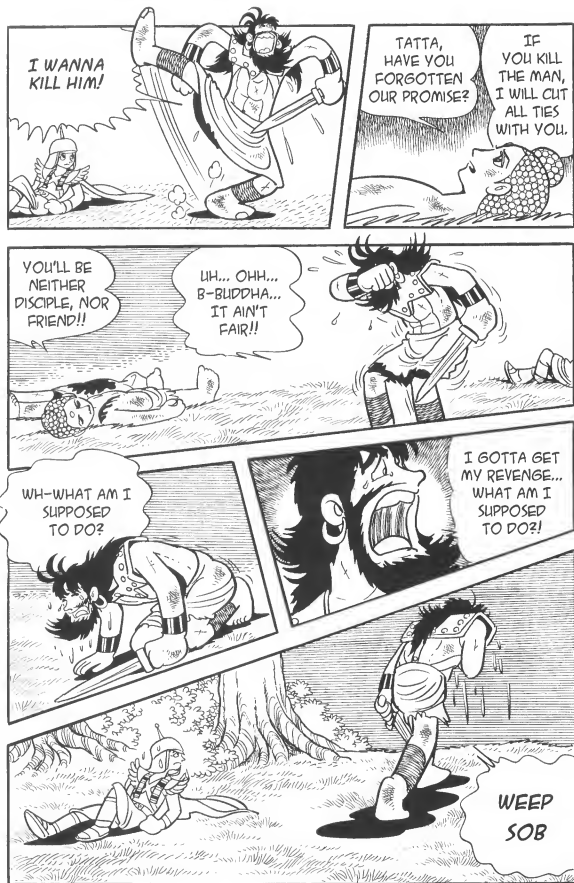




NOW YOU
WELCOME ME
ON YOUR BACK.







PRINCE CRYSTAL,
KEELING OVER
WITH HUMILIATION;
TATTA, DENIED THAT VERY
VENGEANCE HE HAS LIVED FOR;
AND DHEPA, REVIVED
WITH BUDDHA'S OWN BLOOD...
THEIR MEETING WILL COLOR
THE REST OF OUR TALE.

